Customs replaces 3 aging drug-detector dogs. » PAGE 2

Tang finds basis to pursue Fund claim vs Merrill Lynch. » PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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The commercial vessel *Paul Russ* is shown stranded on the Saipan Lagoon after running aground on the coral reef. The navigational channel is the to the left of the vessel and is pronounced by the water that is a darker shade of blue.
HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON 25

UXO found near vessel; port closed

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Divers have found what appears to be unexploded ordnance behind and next to the grounded *Paul Russ*, according to a statement released by the U.S. Coast Guard last night.

"All response operations in the vicinity of the vessel have been suspended until the U.S Navy Explosives Ordnance Division can safely remove the items," said the Coast Guard statement.

The U.S. Coast Guard emphasized the ongoing 24-hour 500-yard safety zone that has been established in the area. The zone prevents any vessels from entering or departing the port of Saipan, as on-shore operations continue toward salvage and response plans.

According to the Coast Guard, there are 400,000 gallons of fuel oil estimated to remain aboard the grounded vessel.

"Nobody goes in," said Martin K. Seman, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant in an interview yesterday afternoon. "Now that we know what's there, until we know that it's rendered safe by the experts then we can say it's OK."

See UXO on Page 4

AS NATION MARKS 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 ATTACKS

World Trade Center complex now on its way to completion

By RACHELLE BLIDNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Thirteen years after the Sept. 11 attacks forever changed the New York skyline, officials say most work at the World Trade Center complex is on track and on budget.

The complex sits on the site of the 2001 terrorist attacks and plans include four buildings, the 9/11 memorial and museum, a shopping center, and a transportation hub, known as the oculus. The memorial and museum have opened, as have parts of the transportation hub.

Two of the four World Trade Center buildings have been completed, and 5 million square feet (460,000 square meters) of office space has already been leased.

State and city officials held a news

See WORLD on Page 4

Palau lawmakers on casino fact-finding mission in NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Palau is once again looking to the CNMI's experience as the independent island nation deals with its own casino legalization bill that passed its House of Delegates on first reading last week. A team of Palau lawmakers is on a fact-finding mission to Saipan, including a meeting yesterday with the Senate, followed by a meeting with the House of Representatives this morning.

» **In wake of Palau HOD's passing of casino bill on first reading**

"We told them it's not easy to sell the idea. They need to have compelling public interest to sell the idea," Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), one of the three CNMI senators who received the Palau lawmakers yesterday, told *Saipan Tribune.*

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Hocog separately said that like the CNMI, Palau's pension fund is also having great financial difficulty, while its utility rates are also high and the minimum wage still pegged at $3.50 an hour.

Within weeks this year, the CNMI House and Senate passed a bill legaliz-

See PALAU on Page 4

Case vs Mondala dismissed

» **Govendo rules OPA counsel lacks authority to prosecute defendant**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo dismissed yesterday the case against former Office of Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala, ruling that the appointment of Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback as a special assistant attorney general in the case violates the separation of powers doctrine.

The case is dismissed without prejudice, which means a new case can be refiled on the same claim or allegations in the future.

Mondala

Govendo ordered that any cash bail or property bond be exonerated and returned to the posting party. He relieved the duty of any third party custodian.

The judge ruled that the attorney

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Apple unveils its long-anticipated smartwatch.
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Raging monsoon floods in India and Pakistan kill more than 440 people.
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LIFE & STYLE
U2 puts out a new album and is giving it away for free to iTunes users.
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Local

Customs replaces 3 aging K9 dogs

Over a year since the revival of its K9 Unit, the CNMI Division of Customs Services replaced its aging drug-detector dogs with three new ones to further beef up border security.

Customs Director Joe Mafnas confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that two new dogs have been in use for weeks now, while a third one just arrived this week.

"These new dogs replaced the ones that were already old. We were able to secure the new dogs using federal grants through the [Criminal Justice Planning Agency]," Mafnas said.

A drug-detector dog demonstration is tentatively set for Friday.

The Labrador dogs were bought from the U.S. mainland, he added.

Mafnas said the dogs that were decommissioned were put up for adoption.

The use of drug-detector dogs is an added tool to detect drugs in incoming passengers, luggage, cargoes, and post office packages, complementing manual checks by Customs personnel at ports of entries.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos brought back Mafnas to his previous post as Customs director, leading to last year's revival of the CNMI Customs Services Division's K9 Unit—once touted a "model" in the Pacific but had been idle since June 2012 for lack of funding and certified drug-detector dog handlers.

Mafnas said yesterday they have one new K9 handler, joining the two certified K9 handlers. Each of them is assigned a drug-detector dog. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

CPUC caps expenditure for Tank 102 project at $1.6M

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved last week a $1.602-million contract for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Tank 102.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. asked the commission to approve the contract on Aug. 8, 2014. On Sept. 2, 2014, Georgetown Consulting Group recommended that the commission authorize a $1.602-million ceiling for the project plus 25 percent.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero said the expenditure for the project "cannot exceed" the ceiling unless first approved by CPUC.

GPPC Inc. was initially contracted for the completion of the Tank 102 project for $579,770. On May 30, 2014, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency disapproved GPPC's contract due to poor workmanship, primarily welding.

On June 3, 2014, CUC asked EPA's permission to hire the Tano Group, Inc. as contractor for the project. EPA gave a conditional approval to CUC and Tano on June 6 and on June 25, EPA approved Tano and M&M Tanks, a subsidiary of Tano, to install the new Tank 102.

According to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, the contract given to Tano was initially for $1,101,434. Fletcher then notified CPUC on Aug. 5, that an additional amount is needed.

"We will need an additional amount of $500,00 to pay for construction management and quality assurance contractors, plus funding a small contingency," Fletcher told CPUC.

The project was capped at approximately $1.6 million.

"We recommend that the project should be defined herein as the installation of Tank 102, inclusive of all attendant activities and cost necessary for the completion of the construction of Tank 102, and not just the Tano contract which CUC states that approval is being sought," Georgetown told the commission.

CUC is bankrolling $800,000 of the project with grants providing another $300,000. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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Igisomar: Roberto never gave instructions to throw SIM card

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Randy Igisomar, one of three men who bludgeoned to death a school security guard in 2008, testified yesterday that Raymond B. Roberto never instructed his friend during a phone conversation to get rid of her cell phone's SIM card.

Igisomar, 22, however, exposed himself to possible perjury and other charges after admitting during cross-examination that he lied to a federal grand jury when he testified that Roberto instructed his friend to get rid of her phone's SIM card.

The friend Igisomar was referring to is a 28-year-old mother of three who testified Thursday that Roberto had sex with her several times, including a threesome, in exchange for drugs and money.

The mother disclosed that either on April 24 or 25, 2014, Igisomar, who was in jail, called her, but that Roberto suddenly got on the phone. She said Roberto told her to get rid of her phone's SIM card. She added that Roberto instructed her not to tell anyone that he talked to her about the SIM card.

Roberto's counsel, Joaquin Torres, called Igisomar to the witness stand in the ongoing jury trial of the 41-year-old Roberto, who is charged with three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

Before allowing Igisomar to testify, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona asked him if he has ever testified in a grand jury proceeding. When Igisomar said yes, Manglona explained the crime of perjury and asked him if he wishes to have a lawyer because there is a possibility that his testimony may have incriminating statements that could later be used against him.

"You have a puzzled look," said Manglona as she again explained the situation to Igisomar.

Igisomar looked at Manglona then replied that he wants to talk to an attorney. Manglona ordered a recess. When trial resumed in the afternoon, attorney Sean Frink appeared in court as Igisomar's counsel. Igisomar then agreed to testify.

During Torres' direct examination, Igisomar said he was at the Department of Corrections and was talking on the phone with his friend (mother of three) when Roberto, who was next to him, asked him to tell his friend to contact his lawyer and investigator through her sister in Guam.

Igisomar said he passed the phone to Roberto and that he could hear Roberto talking to her. When asked if he heard Roberto telling his friend on the phone to throw her cell phone or SIM card, Igisomar answered "no." He said his friend told him to lie to investigators that Roberto asked her to get rid of her SIM card.

Igisomar said his friend told him that if he lies, the federal government will help him get out of jail early and be with her.

Igisomar agreed with Torres that after he testified in a grand jury, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents interviewed him at DOC on Aug. 8, 2014. He said he explained to FBI agents and prosecutors that it was his friend's plan for him to lie about the SIM card.

Igisomar said he explained he was thinking about his freedom so he lied to the grand jury about the SIM card, but the FBI and prosecutors just kept saying he was lying. Igisomar said he did not explain to prosecutors that it was his friend's plan to lie to investigators.

During Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy's cross-examination, Igisomar said he testified before a grand jury that Roberto instructed him to get rid of his friend's SIM card. Badawy admitted as evidence Igisomar's grand jury testimony.

In his re-direct examination, Torres asked Igisomar if he had a lawyer during the grand jury and if perjury charge was explained to him. Igisomar replied, "No, sir."

He agreed with Torres that his testimony before the grand jury was not the truth and that his testimony in court is the truth.

Igisomar was sentenced in May 2011 to 22 years for the murder of Marianas High School security guard Efren Ballesteros. Igisomar's two co-defendants also pleaded guilty and are currently serving prison terms at DOC.

After Igisomar, the defense called two more witnesses: Department of Public Safety Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation commander Kevin Aldan and former Division of Fish and Wildlife director and now Rep. Richard Benavente Seman.

Aldan talked about his role in the investigation and arrest of then-DPS firefighter Richard S. Benavente and the search of the latter's house.

Aldan said there were two cell phones confiscated from

See IGISOMAR on Page 6

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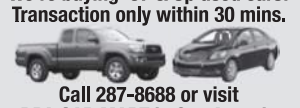
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Casino Commission appointees to face scrutiny

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he will create an ad-hoc committee to review and recommend to the full delegation either confirmation or rejection of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' appointees to the regulatory Commonwealth Casino Commission.

The Casino Commission is tasked to come up with regulations governing the casino industry, among other things, following the Lottery Commission's granting of an exclusive casino license to Best Sunshine International Ltd. to develop a $3.14-billion integrated resort.

Tebuteb said the nominees representing Saipan will face careful scrutiny from the ad-hoc committee and the delegation as a whole to ensure that their qualifications and background comply with the casino law.

Inos reappointed former Marianas Public Land Trust board trustee Alvaro A. Santos on Aug. 15. Santos also previously served as Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief financial officer.

The governor withdrew Santos' previous appointment when it became apparent that the Saipan legislative delegation couldn't act on the nomination within a 90-day period. With the Aug. 15 reappointment, Saipan lawmakers have until mid-November to reject or confirm such nomination.

Tebuteb said yesterday it must be noted that the Senate once rejected Santos' reappointment to the MPLT board over financial and policy decision issues.

The governor also nominated on Aug. 15 former representative Joseph C. Reyes to serve on the Casino Commission. Reyes is a former chairman of the Republican Party.

"So far, we have received the documents supporting the reappointment of Mr. Santos," Tebuteb said, referring to his statement of financial interest, police clearance and drug test receipt, among other things.

Santos' and Reyes' appointments require the confirmation of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The mayors of Rota and Tinian also have to recommend appointees representing their islands.

Tebuteb said a provision in the casino law pertaining to qualifications of Casino Commission members "concerns" him.

The law requires commission members to, among other things, hold a bachelor's degree in any field of study from a postsecondary educational institution accredited in the U.S. "or" must have at least five years work experience in the following areas: business management, government management, or financial management.

"The five-year work experience in business management, if the nominee does not have a bachelor's degree, could only be an experience managing a mom-and-pop store. That, to me, circumvents the required qualifications. I do not have anything against any mom-and-pop store, but we are talking about qualifications for a commissioner that will regulate a casino industry with $3.14-billion investment," Tebuteb said.

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BY BILLY MOREHEAD AND BILL MILLER

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WORLD

From Page 1

conference Tuesday from the 67th floor of 4 World Trade Center, which opened in November.

A completed World Trade Center complex will create a vibrant district and make Lower Manhattan a business and shopping destination, they said.

"It will be a vibrant 24/7 downtown for people around the world," said Port Authority Vice Chairman Scott Rechler. "In the aftermath (of the attacks) that would have been hard to predict."

Although costs soared and plans changed for 1 World Trade Center at the beginning of construction, it will open sometime this fall, Rechler said.

"We owed it to all those who perished" to persist and complete the building, Rechler said.

The center and a transportation hub will open in phases and may not have a grand opening, he said. The center will open when media company Conde Nast moves into its 1.1 million square feet (100,000 square meters) of office space, he said. The building will have a 60 percent occupancy rate.

Technology company MediaMath signed a lease earlier this summer for 100,000 square-feet (9,300 square meters) of office space in 4 World Trade, developer Larry Silverstein said.

Silverstein said his company is obtaining financing to complete 3 World Trade Center by early 2018. Its construction was halted last year because the building lacked an anchor tenant.

He said he plans to open the tower by early 2018. The new date comes after media investment company GroupM signed a 20-year lease to occupy nine of 80 floors.

"Both MediaMath and GroupM represent the technology, advertising, media and information industries that are currently driving the city's economy," Silverstein said. "Their decision to relocate to the World Trade Center proves that New Yorkers were right to bet on downtown."

Plans are on hold for construction of 2 World Trade Center while Silverstein seeks tenants.

AP

In this Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014 photo, 1 World Trade Center towers above the lower Manhattan skyline in New York.

UXO

From Page 1

Seman said the matter was serious, noting the large amount of goods grounded with the vessel and the impact on vessels coming in and out.

As for what caused the grounding, Seman said that error, as a factor, has not been determined yet.

"We are looking at every possible angle," he added.

He noted they are not ruling out weather, adding that the vessel's agent and representative as well as the Coast Guard are doing everything possible to assess the situation.

An underwater survey was also done yesterday to assess the grounding's environmental impact as well as the state of the vessel's hull, according to Seman.

"In terms of the vessel itself, the assessment has been done by the vessel representative," he said, noting that the survey on the possible impact on marine and aquatic life was done by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Some of the environmental survey team was spotted around 3pm yesterday, with some still in dive suits, after landing at Smiling Cove near the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit.

They could not comment on their work as per policy.

Seman said better conditions yesterday enabled a better assessment, as underwater visibility was poor on Tuesday.

"We want to make sure we have a dive safety plan [and] a salvage plan, and that everything is in order in the event that things don't go the way they go. We can't just rush this and not prepare for other things that might happen," he said, when asked if there is a timeline.

The *Paul Russ* ran aground early Tuesday morning in the vicinity of buoy number 3 along the navigation channel entering the port of Saipan. There was no report of injuries to its 17 crew or any oil spill incident.

A Unified Command Center has been established at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Seaport Office, with a command post for operations established at the DPS Boating Safety Unit in Smiling Cove.

PALAU

From Page 1

ing casino on Saipan. In August, the CNMI government awarded an exclusive license to Best Sunshine International Ltd. to develop a $3.14-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan. The license term is up to 40 years.

In Palau last week, the House of Delegates passed—but only on first reading—an exclusive casino license valid for 50 years with an annual license fee of $16 million on the second through the 48th year.

Torres said he only learned of the Palau delegation's fact-finding mission during their courtesy visit to the CNMI Senate yesterday. Besides Torres and Hocog, also present was Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan).

The six-member Palau lawmakers' team is led by Delegate Lucio Ngiraiwet, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and State Relations.

"They asked us questions, including how we considered a minimum amount of investment, the role of Retirement Fund issues, how things have changed. They also have problems with their retirement now, their utility rates are high, and their minimum wage is still $3.50 an hour," Torres said.

Torres said he also recommended that Palau lawmakers learn more about "integrated resort" with casino.

About two years ago, Torres voted "no" to a Saipan casino legalization bill. Citing the need to address mounting CNMI financial problems such as the retirement fund, Torres voted "yes" this year to allow casino operation on Saipan—touted as a major revenue-generating measure.

"I'm glad that other islands like Palau are trying to address their current issues. If casino is the venue, then so be it. They are now looking at the CNMI as a good model. I also suggested to them to protect their people, address their long-term issues," Torres added.

Hocog, for his part, said the Palauan lawmakers asked them about the issues that led to the passage of an exclusive Saipan casino license bill. He said they were also asked how they managed to pass the Saipan casino bill, and what the public's reaction was.

"Although at a smaller scale, the delegates said Palau needs at least $8 million more every year to fund its pension program. That's money they don't have. Some lawmakers hope that having a casino in Palau will help Palau address their retirement problems, too, just like how the CNMI is addressing its retirement fund issues," Hocog said.

He said the big difference between Palau and Saipan is that Palau still has lots of available public lands, whereas Saipan has limited lands.

"So now, the biggest challenge for the Saipan casino developer is the availability of lands. We don't have much lands available," Hocog added.

Casino gaming has long been legal in the CNMI's two other major islands of Tinian and Rota. As of today, only Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is operating in the CNMI, while Best Sunshine has yet to even lock in lands on where to build its integrated casino resort on Saipan.

Palau's *Island Times* reported that almost all members of the House of Delegates signed on to a bill that will permit and regulate casino gambling in Palau.

Palau's House Bill No. 153-15S was introduced by 13 House of Delegates members led by Speaker Sabino Anastacio.

The bill provides for the establishment of the Palau Gaming Commission, which is tasked to, among other things, issue no more than once casino license.

Under the bill, the casino license fee is $50 million for the first year of the term of the license to cover the first year, 49th and 50th year of the casino license fee. The casino license holder is required to pay $16 million in license fee annually beginning the second year of the license, and on through the 48th year.

Pro-casino lawmakers eye high-end tourist markets for the proposed Palau casino.

Palau lawmakers are planning to conduct public hearings on the bill.

Palau President Tommy Remengesau first vetoed a casino bill during his previous term, in 2003. In 2009, then Palau president Johnson Toribiong also vetoed a casino bill.

MONDALA

From Page 1

general violated the separation of powers by delegating general prosecutorial powers to members of an agency that has no such legislatively created authority.

"In the absence of legislative action, the AG has no authority to delegate his prosecutorial powers to personnel in other agencies, particularly when so doing impermissibly expands that agency's constitutional and statutory authority," said Govendo in the footnote of his order that granted Mondala's motion to dismiss.

The judge said the Legislature must clarify the OPA's prosecutorial authority if it wants the OPA's legal counsel to be more involved in criminal proceedings against government employees involved in corruption.

"The Joint Task Force's purpose can be accomplished if the Legislature works closely with the OPA to increase the OPA's ability to prosecute these types of cases," he said.

Mondala has been charged with 22 counts of forgery; six counts of misconduct in public office; eight counts of use of public supplies, time, and personnel for campaign activities; two counts of use of public position to obtain benefits for business or social acquaintances; one count of theft services; one count of theft; and one count of use of office, staff or employees of a public office for personal benefit.

All counts relate to a period of time between June 15, 2009, and Dec. 10, 2010, while Mondala was the director of the Office of Aging, a government agency.

OPA accused the 69-year-old Mondala of using the Aging Office's funds and materials for the needs of the Covenant Party during the 2009 elections and to build a fence at her house in Kagman.

Mondala, through assistant public defender Eden Schwartz, filed a motion to dismiss the charges, claiming that OPA lacks statutory and constitutional authority to prosecute her.

Schwartz argued, among other things, that OPA has limited authority to investigate and prosecute criminal cases.

In the government's opposition, Hasselback asserted that the motion should be dismissed because it is based on the incorrect belief that OPA is prosecuting this case when, in fact, Mondala is being prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General.

Hasselback said this case is a result of an OPA investigation presented to a Joint Task Force, composed of the OAG, OPA, and the Department of Public Safety.

Hasselback noted, among other things, that the case was brought before the chief prosecutor and was approved for prosecution. He said the AG appointed him as a special assistant attorney general to prosecute this case.

In dismissing the case, Govendo said the AG has the power to appoint assistant attorneys general as he deems necessary and as his budget allows to effectively represent the government and its interests.

Citing case law, Govendo said the CNMI Supreme Court has found that the Superior Court may appoint a special assistant attorney general even though there is no explicit statutory or constitutional authority to do so.

Govendo said he finds that such power should also be extended to the Commonwealth's AG, particularly given the wide latitude provided to him in staffing his office.

"It is the AG who is in the best position to understand the needs and abilities of his office, and it is the AG who ultimately understands how best to staff his office in order to fulfill the duties required of him by the Constitution," he said.

Govendo said that participation in a Joint Task Force that investigates and prosecutes the same crimes for which OPA was created to discover and prevent clearly falls within the Public Auditor's mandate.

"Consequently, the use of the OPA's funds toward the Joint Task Force does not violate the Constitution," the judge said.

Given that OPA is not an Executive Branch agency, Govendo said it does not enjoy the same protections against violations of separation of powers that may be applicable to other agencies that fall within one specific branch of government.

Govendo said to date, OPA has not been granted any general prosecutorial duties and, instead, it has been granted the limited authority to prosecute the governor and the AG.

He said OPA's mandate does not allow for prosecutions beyond those designated by law.

The judge said the governor's ability to change or reallocate the functions and duties of government agencies is limited to agencies contained within the Executive Branch of government.

Since OPA falls outside the Executive Branch, an executive order would not suffice to give OPA more authority than that which has been granted to it by the Legislature, Govendo said.

Tang finds basis to pursue Fund claim vs Merrill Lynch

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

»Trustee wants to substitute as claimant, says additional cost is justified by potential damage award

NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang has disclosed that based on their independent review of the case, there is basis in pursuing the claims against the NMI Retirement Fund's former investment consultant, Merrill Lynch.

Based on the Settlement Fund trustee legal team's review of the litigation, Tang recommends that the U.S. District Court for the NMI substitute the trustee as the claimant against Merrill Lynch in the claims that are now pending in an arbitration proceeding before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA.

Tang made the recommendation in her combined second and third quarter report for fiscal year 2014 filed in federal court on Sunday. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood held a hearing on the report on Tuesday. She has yet to rule on Tang's recommendation.

Tang said the work related to prosecuting the claims against Merrill Lynch will increase the cost of the trustee's expenses and consultant fees, but this added cost is justified by the potential damage award that the Settlement Fund can receive from the case.

She expects additional time and travel expenses will be incurred in connection with the FINRA arbitration of approximately $95,000 from last year's budget of $180,000.

Also, Tang would like to retain the services of Maggie Ralbovsky of Wilshire Consulting Inc., the Settlement Fund's investment consultant, to advise the Fund about the issues in the lawsuit.

Tang said an additional $50,000 was budgeted for Ralbovsky's consultant fee, which will be charged on a time and expenses basis.

Merrill Lynch was the Retirement Fund board's investment consultant until 2010. During the time of the consultancy relationship, the value of the Fund's assets reportedly substantially dropped.

Individual claimants Mariano Taitano, Roman T. Tudela, and Patricia Guerrero filed a lawsuit in Superior Court against the Fund's board, Merrill Lynch, and unnamed others, alleging various causes of action for damages relating to the decline of the Fund's assets.

The Fund's board later assigned its potential claims against Merrill Lynch to certain Fund members who were willing and able to litigate the claims.

The lawsuit in Superior Court was then stayed and the matter was submitted to arbitration before FINRA.

Tang said under the terms of the Betty Johnson settlement agreement, the proceeds from the Merrill Lynch litigation were assigned to the Settlement Fund.

Taitano, Tudela, and Guerrero are pursuing the assigned claims against Merrill Lynch on behalf of the Settlement Fund members in the FINRA arbitration proceeding.

Tang said based on their independent review, the claims against Merrill Lynch are meritorious and there is basis for proceeding against the company.

Tang said they have been communicating with the claimants' attorney, Peter Mougey, and that the lawyer has asked the Settlement Fund trustee to substitute in.

Tang said the substitution would be accomplished by an assignment of the claims from the claimants to the Settlement Fund but the consent of the CNMI governor would be required.

She said if the court approves the substitution and the assignment of the claimants' claims to the Settlement Fund, the Settlement Fund will enter into a legal engagement agreement with Mougey's law firm.

Tang said they were informed by claimants' counsel that Merrill Lynch would like to mediate this case in November 2014.

The arbitration before the FINRA is currently scheduled for the early part of 2015 in Hawaii. The arbitration date will be moved if mediation proceeds.

Tang said if the Settlement Fund is allowed to substitute as the claimant in the FINRA arbitration, the trustee strongly recommends mediation.

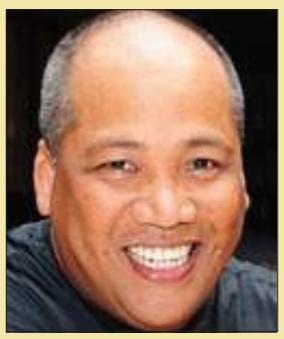
At least 3 seek to run in special Senate election under the GOP

»Republican Party sets Sept. 12 deadline to submit letters of intent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least three individuals, including Commerce Secretary and Lottery Commission chair Sixto Igisomar, have so far sought the Republican Party's endorsement to become their official candidate to fill a Senate seat vacated by Ray Yumul.

Two others are eyeing to run under the GOP, but the party has set a Sept. 12 deadline of 4pm to turn in all letters of intent for the Nov. 4 special election.


Igisomar

Besides Igisomar, GOP sources said the two others are Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board trustee Roy Rios and Steve Sablan. At least two more may be added to the list.

Ivan Blanco of the Republican Party said Tuesday that the GOP board will decide on Sept. 15 who among the interested individuals will become the party's official senatorial candidate. The selection would be through secret balloting.

"Due to requests by interested candidates, I am unable to share their names," Blanco said.

Igisomar, however, confirmed Tuesday his intention to run for the special election for a Saipan senatorial seat.

"My intention and commitment to run is only if I run [under] the GOP and no other," Igisomar said in his Sept. 9 letter to GOP president James Ada.

Besides his current post as Department of Commerce secretary, Igisomar is also chairman of the Lottery Commission, which reviewed, negotiated, and granted an exclusive license to develop a $3.14-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan.

As Commerce secretary, Igisomar automatically assumed the positions of the CNMI insurance commissioner, banking director, and workers compensation commissioner.

Igisomar has an extensive experience in both private and government sectors in the CNMI and U.S. mainland. He attended Northern Marianas College and Seattle University.

He also served on the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board, and the CNMI State Board Workers Investment Agency.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos set a Sept. 18 deadline to file with the Commonwealth Election Commission nomination petitions for the special election. The Commission has until Sept. 22 to act on the petitions filed.

Robert A. Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, said yesterday that the commission board has tentatively set a Sept. 20, Saturday, meeting to certify the candidates for the special election.

As of yesterday, no candidate has so far filed their petition with the commission.

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‘CNMI does very well with ANA funds’

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

According to Susan White, a Ka’anani’au technical specialist who helps lead workshops in grant-writing for the Administration for Native Americans, the CNMI has done” very well” in [grant] competitions over the past years.

“If you look at your population compared to the whole country, [the CNMI] should be getting one every three years, but you guys have always had at least one and frequently two grants out here per year,” she said.

She noted some cultural projects funded in the CNMI such as a book on medicinal plants written in the Chamorro and Carolinian languages, as well as a “traditional knowledge” project headed by the Public School System.

She also cited the children’s library on island as well a hydroponic project at San Vicente Elementary School.

White noted that there is no limit for awards given per region.

“You don’t compete per region, you compete with the whole country,” she said, adding that the CNMI does “extremely well” compared to the rest of the nation.

White recently concluded a three-day workshop in grant writing and project planning at the Northern Marianas College for organizations or individuals who want to avail of funding provided by ANA for community-based projects.

White encourages more of the community to join workshops like this.

“These are pretty significant dollars that you can apply for,” she added.

She said that grant-writing skills are learned as well—skills that can “open the door to different funding sources” to address problems on island.

Some of the attendees of the workshop were the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the CNMI Women’s Association, the Public School System, NMC Rota and NMC Tinian, the Saipan Mayor’s Office, and some private individuals.

White described the three-day workshop as intensive as it prepares organizations to write 150-pages worth of detailed project planning, which includes plans for budget, personnel, facilities, and activities.

In regards to criteria, she said organizations are asked to show their long-range goals and how their project addresses needs.

“[The project] has to be tied into need,” she said, citing a community’s high-obesity rate or unemployment as examples.

An ANA comparison chart for described four programs: social and economic development strategies (SEDS); Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS); Language Preservation and Maintenance (Lang. P&M); and Language P&M – Esther Martinez Immersion (Lang. EMI).

SEDS funds programs for early childhood development, suicide prevention, and arts and culture, with 22 awards given with a ceiling of $400,000 and floor of $50,000 per budget period over one to three years.

SEEDS funds programs in agriculture or economic infrastructure, for example, with 15 awards given with a ceiling of $500,000 and floor of $100,000 per budget period for project periods lasting one to five years.

Lang P&M awards 10, with an average of $275,000 per budget period for one to three years, and Lang. EMI awards six with a $300,000 average period for three years.

White said deadlines for grants are in March, with most grants awarded on Oct. 1 except for the language programs.

Ayuda Network OK’d to be respite provider for CDD

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Council on Developmental Disabilities has approved Ayuda Network Inc. as the community-based organization to administer the Commonwealth Respite Service Program.

The CCD board met at the Pacific Islands Club’s Napu Room late last month and council members unanimously voted to ratify the memorandum of agreement between CDD and Ayuda Network.

Ayuda Network had been chosen as CDD’s community-based organization to implement and facilitate a program to provide a comprehensive and coordinated respite care services for qualified clients in the CNMI.

Respite care is temporary relief for primary caregivers to prevent individual and family breakdown, institutionalization of the person being cared for, or abuse by the primary caregiver as a result of stress from giving continuous support and care to a dependent person.

“Ayuda Network has the expertise and background as a community-based organization who shall be responsible for regulating, managing and supervising the delivery of respite care services to the community,” the CDD board said.

CDD chair Thomas Camacho said in an earlier interview that the respite program already has its rules and regulations and all they’re waiting for is its implementation and accompanying voucher system.

CDD will be the advisory board for Ayuda Network in implementing the program. CDD agreed that they will be responsible for the development of the respite program and will provide the Ayuda Network guidance in regulation, management, and supervision of respite care.

CDD will also monitor, evaluate, and submit an annual proposed budget and spending plan to the governor for respite care each fiscal year.

The Ayuda Network’s responsibility will be to develop policies and procedures in administering the program, serve on one or all three senatorial districts, act as the single source for respite services information and referral, and facilitate local respite services and others.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, September 18th , 2014 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of August 21st, 2014 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application #2014-3134: Quadro P’s Enterprises is proposing to operate a Catering and Barbeque business on lot# 0-185 in Koblerville. This use is classified as Catering Service, and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located along Tinala Avenue, and is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Board Review
1. Request for Board determination on File# 2014-1792: Dongbei Inc dba Diamond Water Company for a new Conditional Use hearing.

D. Communications/Reports

E. Old Business.
1. None

F. New Business
1. Office Operations Report

G. Executive (Closed) Session.

H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Quadro P’s Enterprises

Quadro P’s Enterprises is proposing to operate a Catering and Barbeque business on lot# 0-185 in Koblerville. This use is classified as Catering Service, and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located along Tinala Avenue, and is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: September 18th, 2014, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, September 16th , 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2014-CDA-11-ITB

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 TIME: 10:00 am

“JANITORIAL and LAWN CARE SERVICE FOR CDA”

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor CDA Bldg. in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting a public hearing on the Community Services Block Grant and the Social Services Block Grant state plans on the following dates/time:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Saipan	September 15, 2014	5:00pm – 6:30pm	Kobler Youth Center
Rota	September 17, 2014	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Rota Round House
Tinian	September 24, 2014	5:00pm – 6:30pm	Tinian Youth Center

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Community Services Block Grant aims to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals to remove obstacles that block self-sufficiency; secure and retain meaningful employment; attain adequate education; obtain adequate housing; improve referral process for emergency assistance; achieve greater participation in community activities; and support youth development programs. An electronic copy of the CSBG state plan may be viewed at the link below.

http://gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/131112-CSBG-STATE-PLAN-2015.pdf
http://www.dys.gov.mp/ or http://www.dcca.gov.mp/

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

The basic programs that would be implemented under the Social Services Block Grant Consolidation for the CNMI are based on achieving the following goals: Self-Support; Self-Sufficiency; Protective Services; Preventing or Reducing Inappropriate Institutional Care; and Securing Other forms of Care. An electronic copy of the SSBG state plan may be viewed at the link below.

http://gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/131029-FINAL-DRAFT-SSBG-STATE-PLAN-2015.pdf
http://www.dys.gov.mp/ or http://www.dcca.gov.mp/

Copies for the above state plans may also be picked up at the DYS Office of the Community Service Program, House #1324, in Capitol Hill (located right across the U.S. Passport Office). For more information, or to submit written comments, you may contact 664/2550/2551/2591/2592 or e-mail Mrs. Rita Castro, DYS Grant Writer at sorrapi3@gmail.com or Ms. Vivian Sablan, DYS Administrator at vtsablan@gmail.com.

IGISOMAR

From Page 3

Benavente, but there was only one SIM card.

During Badawy’s cross-examination, Aldan agreed that if one of the phone has a SIM card, he will put it in his report.

Aldan also agreed with the prosecutor that if he did not document it in his report that there’s no other SIM card, there was no other SIM card. Aldan said the number of the SIM card is for 785-3503.

Benavente had testified on Tuesday that he owned the cell phone with the number 789-3443. One of Roberto’s three alleged underage victims earlier testified that Roberto used that number.

Rep. Seman testified that he was the director of Fish and Wildlife when Roberto worked as a data manager.

Seman said that on July 13 and 14, 2013, there was an annual International Fishing Derby and that Roberto was the official weigh-in master.

Seman identified photos that he took at the derby, in which Roberto was there.

The lawmaker said he never saw Roberto holding or using a cell phone during the derby.

Seman, however, agreed with Badawy during cross-examination that he didn’t look every second at Roberto during those two-day Derby.

The defense is expected to call their last witness today, Thursday.

Green Gala nets two major sponsors

As a sign of further support from the island's business community, KKMP and Marianas Legal Strategy Group recently joined the ranks of Major Sponsors for Mariana Islands Nature Alliance's upcoming Green Gala.

"We are extremely thankful to both KKMP and Marianas Legal Strategy Group for their demonstrated commitment to our organization and efforts," said Frankie Eliptico, MINA chairperson. "The work we are doing to sustain the natural environment is made possible through the support from businesses such as KKMP and Marianas Legal Strategy Group."

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has successfully implemented many projects, including the Obyan Rehabilitation Project, the Teacher Environmental Camp, the Marine Debris Prevention program, and the Tasi Watch Project.

In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's fragile environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event. In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature brief highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening.

Last year's Green Gala was sold out, so organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early.

Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members.

There are four categories of sponsorship (Emerald, Title, Major, and Sponsor categories) that correspond to the value of companies' contribution. To become a sponsor of the event, contact Brooke Nevitt at 233-REEF (7333), or email castro.fran@gmail.com. ***(MINA)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Carolinian Utt set on fire

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for an arson incident that occurred at the Carolinian Utt on Beach Road, Garapan.

After midnight, 12:30am, Monday, Sept. 1, 2014, DPS Fire and Police personnel were dispatched to a reported structure fire located by the Carolinian Affairs Office. Upon arrival, police noticed one of the Utts was on fire, with flames rising up to 20 feet in the air. Fire suppression units were able to extinguish the fire while police canvassed the area for witnesses.

A witness did not see the actual fire being started but mentioned seeing several juvenile males a few blocks away from the crime scene, shouting out loud and being rowdy. The cost to build the hut was estimated to be over $3,000. The cost to repair the damage is estimated at over $1,000.

Employees reported criminal mischief incidents in the area a few weeks earlier. This included damage to the forklift used in the area. Someone poured water into the gas tank, causing engine problems that required repair. On another date, the battery of the forklift was stolen.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free lecture on Chamorro language research

A presentation on *The Chamorro Language across Islands and Generations* will be given on Rota (Sept. 15), Saipan (Sept. 18), and Tinian (Sept. 22). This is a report on the latest research into Chamorro language processing by the *Chamorro Psycholinguistics na Project* team of Sandy Chung, Matt Wagers, and Manny F. Borja. The presentation on Rota will be at the Mayor's Office at 9am, the presentation on Saipan will be at the American Memorial Park at 6pm, and the presentation on Tinian will be at the Gineftao Center at 5:30pm. The presentation is free to the public and all are welcome. ***(PR)***

Navy, Air Force training in Agat Bay

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Agat Bay Sept. 11 from noon to 4pm and Sept. 12 from 8am to noon. The exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise.

RCUOG regular meeting announcement

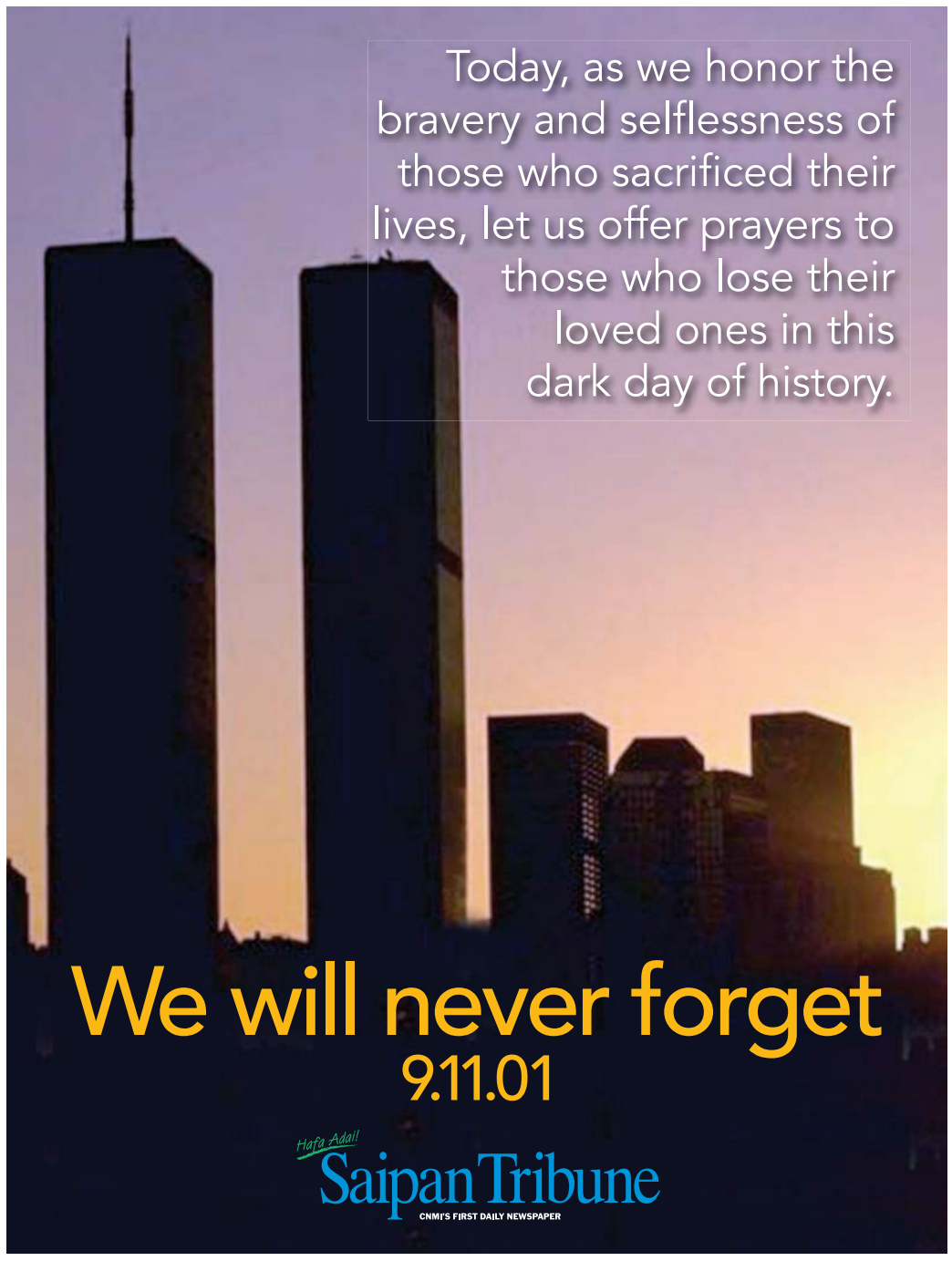
The regular meeting of the Research Corporation of the University of Guam will be held Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, at 2pm in the SBPA Graduate Classroom No. 262 on the second floor of the Jesus S. and Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero Building. The RCUOG complies with Guam Public Law 24-109 with reference to the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance contact Elaine Faculo-Gogue, UOG EEO Office, Room 106, Iya Hami, at 735-2244 or (TTY) 735-2243. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on Sept. 23

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Navy training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 12 from 6am to 11:59pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***


Today, as we honor the bravery and selflessness of those who sacrificed their lives, let us offer prayers to those who lose their loved ones in this dark day of history.
We will never forget
9.11.01
Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

On this day, let us remember all those who perished, those who served, and those who carry on...
Let us not forget
911
From the management and staff of:
Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

Residents: Hawaii lava part of living in paradise

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this Monday, Sept. 8, 2014 photo, security guard George Cortez stands at a roadblock to prevent non-residents from entering the lava-threatened community of Kaohe Homesteads in Pahoa, Hawaii.

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP)—Lava from Kilauea volcano has forced Shawn Heard to move her house once already, back in the 1980s. She's at peace with the possibility of eventually having to do so again.

Heard lives just miles from a cluster of homes that is being threatened by a lava flow inching its way down the lush, rain forest-like slopes of Kilauea. She knows lava could one day get to her house.

And yet, she doesn't think about living anywhere else.

"It's such a magical place," said Heard in her shop, Puna Style, in downtown Pahoa, the largest town in the district.

Like many who moved onto a volcano that's been continuously erupting since 1983, Heard settled here for the tranquility of a rural area and the great people she met. It's a place where she can go home at night and look up to see thousands of stars.

"We created a family that is in some ways closer than the family we came to this Earth to," she said.

As the lava flows, however, it's giving those who are in the process of moving here or are planning to reason for pause.

In the downtown, just next door to Heard's boutique, is Savio Realty, where the usual bustle of walk-in traffic from tourists hoping to own a bit of paradise has quieted down in recent days, broker Sandra Lee Hegerfelt said.

Some potential home buyers are backing out of escrow because of the possibility that lava may block roads, she said. Officials are warning residents about the possibility that lava might cover part of a highway that could isolate about 8,000 people.

Some lenders, meanwhile, are adopting a wait-and-see attitude and have been slow to approve mortgages, she said.

"There's no way to know whether it will continue or just stop," she said of the lava.

Having the cheapest land in one of the nation's most expensive states has long made Puna an attractive option for many from the U.S. mainland seeking to retire in Hawaii or buy vacation homes.

Homes in Puna may sell for one-third or half of comparable homes on Oahu, where Honolulu is located.

Heard initially came to the island more than three decades ago to take care of the grandchildren of a wealthy family from her home state of California. She was living in a subdivision called Royal Gardens when Kilauea began erupting.

The lava flow kept prompting evacuation warnings each month. Finally, after about five years, she dismantled her house and reassembled it in Leilani Estates, a subdivision nestled among the thick forest.

She left not because lava was about to cover her property, though, but because lava could cover the main access road.

Her family's only way to town was via a circuitous 70-mile one-way route through a nearby national park. Lava eventually consumed her Royal Gardens property, but not until 2009.

"Life goes on. If you dwell on it, you'll go crazy," she said.

Residents like Heard say living on a volcano is a lot like living in disaster-prone areas on the mainland.

Heard asks why people live on the San Andreas fault in California even though they may be hit by a large earthquake at any time. Or why people live in Florida where they might be battered by hurricanes each summer.

"Ever worry about living in a high-rise? It's the same kind of thing. We all have those worries. But does it consume me? No," she said.

George Cortez, a security guard who was born and raised near Hilo, reminds people that the land belongs to Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess, and that people are living on it because she lets them.

"If she's going to come and wants to take your place, she's going to do it," he said, echoing a common Big Island refrain.

Fil-Am group to mark 9/11 anniversary

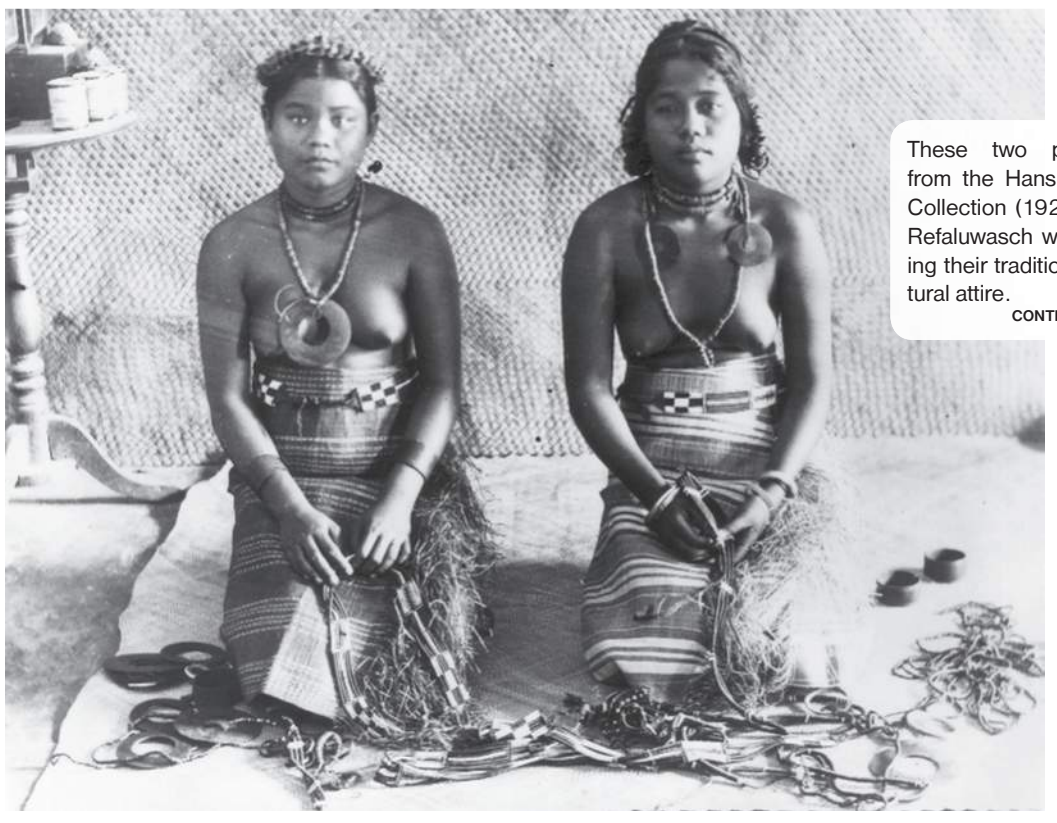
In commemoration of the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that occurred in New York, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon, the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter (CNMI and Guam), in collaboration with the El Shaddai Charismatic Group Saipan, will be holding a simple ceremony today, Sept. 11, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe from 6pm to 8pm.

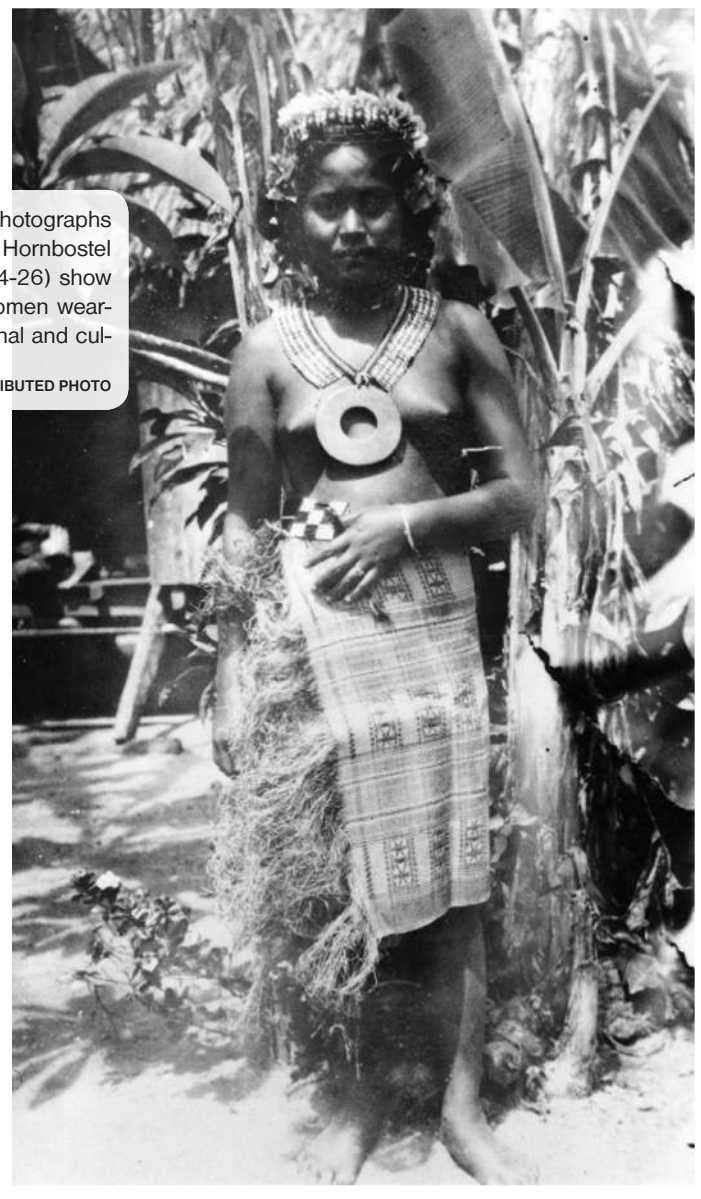
"Today, Sept. 11, which is also called the National Day of Service and Remembrance, let us remember the people who lost their lives, their families, the survivors, and the first respondents during that tragic day. Let us also recognize our firefighters, law enforcers, first responders and volunteers in the CNMI," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, USP4GG Marianas Chapter chairperson.

Sen. Ray Yumul will be the guest speaker during this commemoration. There will also be patriotic songs to be performed by the El Shaddai Youth Choir, prayers for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, among others.

The public is invited, regardless of ethnicity, religion, nationality, and citizenship. ***(PR)***

Historical photos of Carolinians up for display





These two photographs from the Hans Hornbostel Collection (1924-26) show Refaluwasch women wearing their traditional and cultural attire.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be holding a public viewing next week of a photo exhibit featuring the CNMI's historical past.

The exhibit will present historical photographs featuring Carolinians during the German, Japanese, and U.S. administrations.

The exhibit will be available for public viewing at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan beginning Monday, from 9am to 4pm.

The Humanities Council said that they are featuring images of Refaluwasch women from Garapan wearing traditional attire.

"We are seeking the public's help in identifying the photos at the exhibit," council said.

There will be about 30 to 40 photos on display.

"We are hoping to share at least two photos per week this month via newspapers on the island with different photos each week and for each newspaper," the council said.

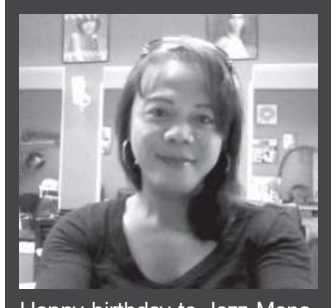
Besides the names of the people featured in the photographs, the council is also looking for information on the proper names of the traditional clothing, necklaces and belts that were used, types of traditional clothing used only for special occasions, and styles for different occasions.

"The information provided by the public on the photos will be gathered and used for publishing on a Marianas history book by Don Farrell," the council said.

The exhibit is part of the celebration of Cultural Heritage Month. Another event will take place this Friday, Sept. 12, called *Uumw* Night, and will take place every night beginning this Friday.

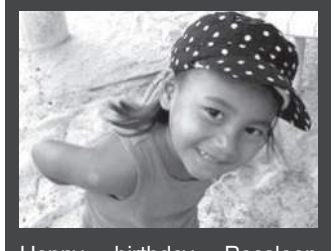
For more information, visit the council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org or call 235-4785.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to Jazz Manalaysay, who is celebrating her birthday today! May you have many more to come! God bless you more. Greetings come from your friends on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Rosaleen Tagabuel! God bless you always baby. We love and miss you very much! Love, Jojo and Shaun.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mariana Resort & Spa

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENS OF THE CNMI

In view of recent news articles regarding the public land lease of Kan Pacific (dba Mariana Resort & Spa), I write to clarify that Mariana Resort & Spa has every desire to continue serving the CNMI and we believe our continued operation in Marpi is in the best interest of the government and the people.

THE ISSUE

In and before 2013, the DPL and Mariana Resort were actively engaged in negotiations for the renewal of our Marpi public land lease, which will expire on April 30, 2018. Substantial progress was made and it appeared that a renewal was imminent.

However, it has now become public knowledge that Saipan casino-licensee Best Sunshine is trying to convince the CNMI government to put an end to Mariana Resort & Spa and transfer the property to Best Sunshine when the current lease expires.

In brief, it is our position that Mariana Resort & Spa should be allowed to continue to operate through the provision of a new 40-year lease AND that the new casino-licensee develop its integrated casino on other available property. We believe this would be in the best interest of the CNMI.

LONGEVITY AND PERFORMANCE

Kan Pacific is a family-owned Japanese company that has been doing business in the CNMI for 36 years, since the infancy of CNMI tourism. Beginning as a 9-hole golf course with a few cottages, Kan Pacific has since develop into a successful resort hotel, 18-hole course, and full spa, providing government revenue, local jobs, and community service as a part of the CNMI business community for nearly four decades.

The Saipan casino-licensee is a Chinese holding company that was not actively engaged in any business operations. Although they issued billions of dollars worth of stock on the Chinese stock market to capitalize the casino multiplex project after winning the license bid, they have no track record or prior experience as a functioning company that has ever actually operated a business.

WHAT'S GOING ON

In May 2013, DPL sent a letter to Kan Pacific encouraging Kan Pacific to extend its lease. In the letter, DPL stated that it is optimistic that approval by the Legislature will be granted, and that DPL will use its best efforts to obtain legislative approval for such an extension. Negotiations for an extended lease culminated in Kan Pacific submitting a proposal committing $30-million in additional improvements to the property, including 100 additional hotel rooms, significant improvements of the golf course, expanded food and beverage operations to include at least two new restaurants, and the addition of a hotel infinity pool. This proposed expansion would create at least 60 additional jobs and would generate millions of dollars to go directly to the government through hotel occupancy tax, business gross receipt tax, and Chapter 2 taxes.

As we continued trying to make headway on our proposal with DPL and move the negotiations toward a conclusion, we were not advised that another party was communicating with DPL regarding its interest in acquiring the Mariana Resort property. As we now understand from Best Sunshine's letter to DPL dated Sept. 2, 2014, they have been actively working to lease both the Mariana Resort property and the Paupau property just south of Mariana Resort (released by the RFP awardee Tan Holdings Co., which has since leased the Wing Beach property just north of Mariana Resort).

KAN PACIFIC SHOULD STAY IN THE CNMI

There are a number of reasons why Kan Pacific is good for the CNMI and should stay here:

• We are a great hotel. Mariana Resort & Spa offers all the amenities of a full-resort, the only full spa in Micronesia, a professionally-designed golf course, the only go kart track in the CNMI, a public 50-meter pool hosting local and regional swim meets, baseball fields utilized by both locals and visiting professional teams from Asia, a driving range, and a short par 3 course. We offer large rooms and individual villas with a boutique atmosphere, catering to the niche markets of honeymoon/wedding, active adults/adventurers, and others.

• We are a good corporate citizen. Mariana Resort & Spa has faithfully kept the terms of its public land lease and has consistently paid its rent and taxes in a timely manner.

• We are community-minded. Mariana Resort & Spa has demonstrated its support of local charities and other community organizations through numerous cash and in-kind donations continuously through the years.

• We contribute strongly to Japanese tourism arrivals and investment. Kan Pacific is the longest standing Japanese hotel owner in Saipan serving an average of nearly 30,000 Japanese guests per year. Our continued presence provides a sense of assurance to other Japanese investors. We also help attract Japanese visitors to the CNMI through our promotions and services. The Japan market should not be disregarded. It should be preserved and cultivated. The China and Russia markets are dependent on the Visa Waiver Program, which can be changed or ended at any time by the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security.

• We are committed to the CNMI. We are proud to say we invested here before it was popular to do so, when the CNMI's tourism industry was just beginning. When Japan's financial bubble burst in the 1990s, we boldly answered with the construction of our Reefside Hotel and the opening of our go-kart race track. As tourism woes continued in the 2000s, we opened the CNMI's first spa facility, renovated our 50 original cottages, and added a driving range. When times have been bad and other investors have fled the CNMI, Kan Pacific has stayed committed and aided in the recovery and revival of the CNMI tourism industry.

• We are trustworthy. Many investors have made many promises to help the government and people of the CNMI. Some of those promises have been kept; some have not. As part of the CNMI business community for 36 years, Mariana Resort ownership has shown a heart and soul reflective of honor, integrity, respect, seriousness of commitment, and a true love and for these islands and this community.

Forcing Kan Pacific to close Mariana Resort and leave Saipan would have undesirable consequences, including: the decrease (or loss) of the Japanese market and supporting air service, loss of millions of dollars annually in taxes and lease payments, job loss for our 167 employees, loss revenue and jobs for support services/contracted business, negative impact on related Japanese investments, and more. We estimate that the total direct and indirect impact to the CNMI would be $23-million in losses in the first year of business closure, alone.

THE CNMI'S BEST INTEREST

We believe that it is in the best interest of the CNMI for both Mariana Resort & Spa and the casino-licensee to both operate, both pay taxes, and both pay lease rental. There is other land available for the resort-casino. We see no legitimate or useful purpose to force the closure of Mariana Resort. We are committed to the CNMI, and we look forward to resuming our talks with DPL for another 40-year lease.

Sincerely,

Yoshihiro Kitami, President

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Congress has returned, but don't expect much action

Congress begins an abbreviated session this week following the August recess, so let's begin with the good news, since there's so little of it from Capitol Hill these days: The threat of yet another government shutdown, mercifully, appears to be off the table for now.

Speaker John Boehner said the House will take up a stop-gap funding bill this month that keeps the federal government open until early December. No, members won't approve an actual budget for the entire fiscal year, as responsible lawmakers used to do but at this point a public weary of congressional theatrics will probably settle for this piecemeal approach.

And, for good measure, the threat made earlier this summer by some fringe members to impeach the president is also not happening. "We have no plans to impeach the president," Mr. Boehner conceded last month. It almost makes the speaker and the members of his caucus sound like the voice of reason.

Actually, the stop-gap funding measure for fiscal year 2015 is the only "must pass" piece of legislation facing Congress in the relatively few days they'll be meeting before the pre-election recess. But that doesn't mean there's nothing useful they can do if they overcome their customary gridlock.

The most important, for regions that thrive on international trade, is reauthorization of the agency that funds imports and exports. The loans and loan guarantees made by the Export-Import Bank to foreign customers of American exporters are vital to the national economy—especially to global gateways like Miami and South Florida.

Critics call it corporate welfare, but bank figures show that 90 percent of its transactions benefit small businesses. The agency backed $7 billion of export sales in Florida in fiscal 2013, including $1.5 billion in South Florida. And the bank earns money for taxpayers: Last year, it reduced the deficit by $1 billion from the fees and interest it received.

This should be a no-brainer. If Congress wants to tinker with the agency's rules and guidelines, they can debate changes, but eliminating the bank altogether would amount to legislative malpractice.

Keeping the bank alive is one of the priorities, the most urgent, we believe, on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's agenda.

Among the others is an increase in the federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour. Republican House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, meanwhile, has said his caucus will push for approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, among other projects. Supporters say it would boost the economy and enhance energy independence.

Neither the minimum wage nor the pipeline appears to have a chance, however. Once upon a time, they were the type of issues that Republicans and Democrats could negotiate and bring to fruition. But in today's hyper-partisan atmosphere, merely agreeing to keep the government open seems, sadly, like a major victory.

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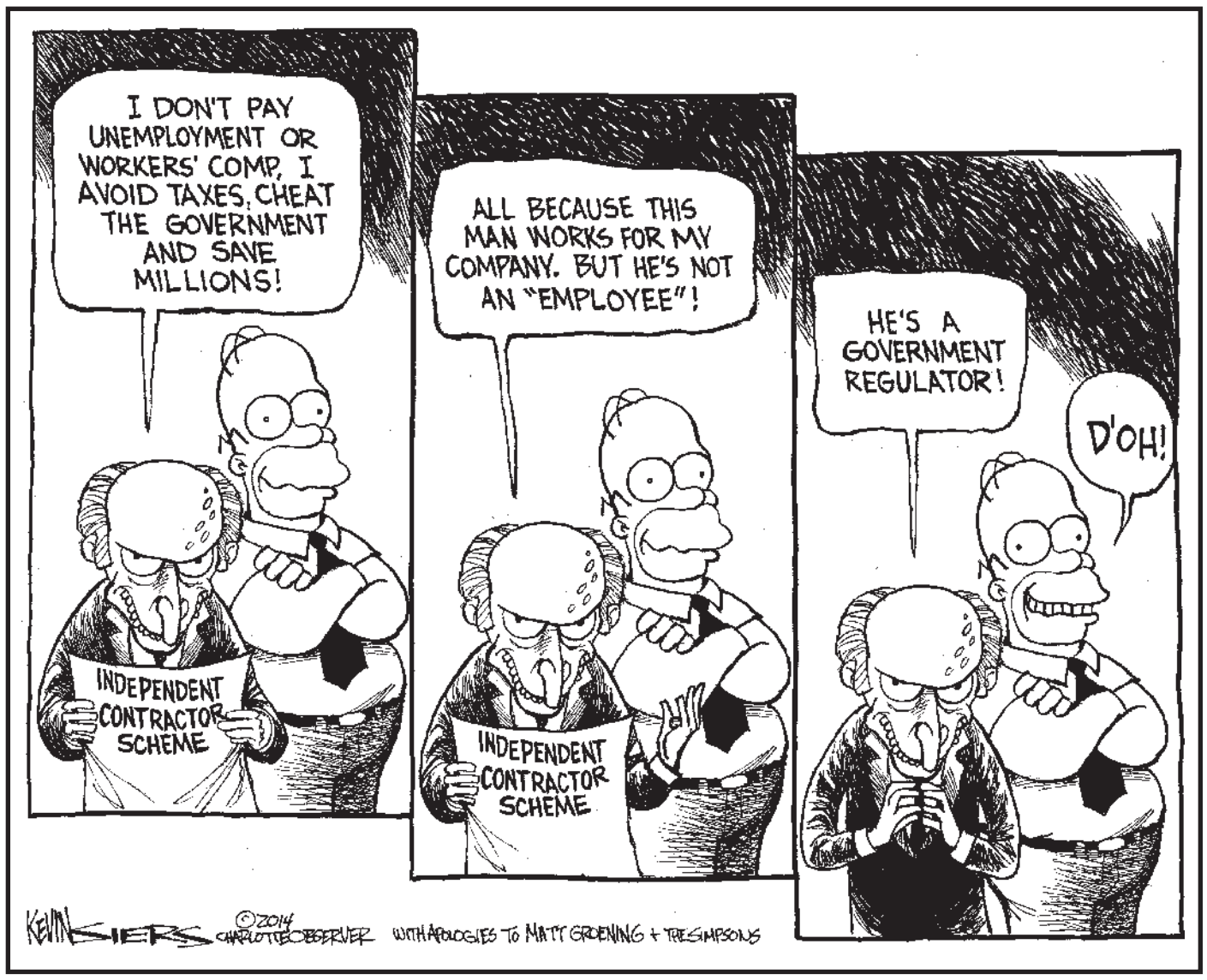

I DON'T PAY UNEMPLOYMENT OR WORKERS' COMP, I AVOID TAXES, CHEAT THE GOVERNMENT AND SAVE MILLIONS!
ALL BECAUSE THIS MAN WORKS FOR MY COMPANY. BUT HE'S NOT AN "EMPLOYEE"!
HE'S A GOVERNMENT REGULATOR!
D'OH!
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SCHEME
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SCHEME
KEVIN SIERS ©2014 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER WITH APOLOGIES TO MATT GROENING & THE SIMPSONS

Military culture

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Two institutions determined how I ladled my soup in my youth. First, there was West Point of far away America but close to Pinoy imagination. The second was the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio where shorter versions of cadets at West Point bugled themselves on and off barracks. It was my mother's fascination with both that got my siblings and I to scoop soup with engineering precision.

The posture called for a straight back, head up and eyes front, left hand on the lap, right hand on the soup spoon (lefties were deemed sissy) dipping it on the bowl, perpendicularly lifting the spoon to the level of one's lips, then moving it to the mouth. Reverse the movement for the next dip.

I did not understand this when we were young in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, where my friend's Papa at his house sat on his stool with his undershirt rolled up to the chest, left foot on the bar of the chair and left elbow on the raised knee, knuckled fist on the cheek as he slurped his soup straight from the bowl. Ladle was for wimps, he said. I tried the gesture once at my house. My mother asked: *Ano ka, intsik?* (What are you, Chinese?) The Hakka merchants in town were not known for finesse in public appearance, let alone dining.

It was not until I was 4 when mother took us to my great aunt's house in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, that I understood the import of the military tradition in the dining room. She was married to the youngest elected governor of the Province of Ilocos Norte, a personal friend of President Quezon who disappeared during the war while fighting the Japanese in the mountains. While on the run, great aunt was captured and the governor was declared MIA shortly thereafter. His body was never found but my great aunt retained a mystique that made political wannabes trek to her house for her blessings before tossing hats (no ribbons) into the electoral ring.

It was around her dining table where I noticed the military ladle. There were stiff uniforms around the table. My uncle was aide to a young Sen. Ferdinand Edralin Marcos. The only son of the late guv, Roquito (the late guv was Roque) also got elected to public office. A major named Fidel Edralin Ramos who attended West Point also graced the table.

My brothers grew up wanting to join the military service, and to the credit of uncle politico, he did not assist hard enough, though as a national legislator he could have recommended either of them to PMA. I was averse to guns and commands so I was out of the picture.

I skipped ROTC in my first two years of college but I needed two years of it to graduate so I donned a uniform on my last two years in college. My school was short of officers, and being the student council president and later the school paper editor, I was offered a First Louie ranking to escort the band majorette in parades. She was a bit on the plump side but oh so good-looking. I acceded.

As one of the officers, I took a test administered to some 20K officers across the country to train as a pilot with the Air Force. Three hundred of us were notified to appear at the Air Force Base near Manila for physical, finally paring 75 invited to enlist for training. The come-on was the possibility of training on the U.S. Air Force's F-4 in Colorado Springs, should we qualify. Heady stuff for a young mind to process.

The Vietnam War heated up and the signs of violent times were on the wall. Mactan Air Base in the Visayas supported U.S. operations. The girls at the Manila Air Base were smart looking and they thought we were not bad looking either. But I was ambivalent re pilot training and when the recruiting officer mentioned that if we declined to enter the incoming class, we had a second option on the next one, I postponed deciding.

Today, everywhere in the world, it is the military that is expected to maintain order when chaos prevails, preferably led by Sandhurst or West Point grads, though an *Ecole Militaire* will do, too, as *Ecole Polytechnique* produced better engineers (and MIT would surpass the cadets by the Hudson). I did not follow the course.

Things moved fast. Thanks to USIS, 50-some student leaders in a six-week sojourn to Rizal's *Retiro Park* in Mindanao in the first YMCA Rizal Youth Leadership Training Institute became conversant on the contradictions and promises of democracy, of socialism, and of communism.

In between semesters, eyeing a career in civil law, I joined an Asian Christian Youth Assembly at Silliman University in Dumaguete City in '64 where I saw Vatican II's import and the ground swell of *oikumene.* In '65, the U.S. got sucked into a skirmish its military-industrial complex was raring to jump into in Vietnam. My soul shifted to canon law, and journeyed akin to Nikos Kazantzakis' *Saviors of God.*

I was an adult by assignment at 10; at 20, I became an adult by choice! I sailed under SF's Golden Gate in '65 leaving my short pants in Pea Eye. I ladled my soup my own way from then on.

Pot industrian casino

Malagnus un` papet pot finapos Best Sunshine, era i kompania ni mana`e uniku lisensia para u fan hatsa Saipan casino. Kompanian neñkanu` este offisioña i Best Sunshine.

`Nai ha annunsia na para u hatme bisnes casino, mamatinas $1.5 biyon pesus na ganansia gi mafanana`an stock market. Taya` trabiha priniponen lai casino guine gi ayu na tiempu.

Dispues guaha siha offisiat ginen este man-hañau para Hong Kong yan Macau para u fan man-espiha fiñkas (investment). Tinatiye `nai doku` lehislasion casino ti lehislatura ni mana okakahat dispues mafitma lai un` pueñge `nai man-hanau hit manmaigu`.

Mampos chadeg finalagun inapprueban este na lai na ni publiku ti mana`e chansa para u ekspressia dibuenamente haf` sentimentoña. Lau esta pot dos biahe ta punu` este na ginagau gi alacha. Ayu buente na manakahat i lai gi lehislatura.

Gi todu lugat casino, guaha kontribusion tax debi uma`apase. Saipan seru este na patte gi lai. Lau estague` na lugat gi halom casino `nai matutufuñg hinalom salape` diariu. Haf` na ti mana patte kontribusion $50 miyon pesus gi sakan `nai taya` tax?

Uttimoña, i tautau fuetsau u inapase gastun operasion casino pot kuarenta años na tiempu. Dinanche este na disision? Haf` na kontodu i mas mamopble para un` sapet pot diskuidu? Aplacha na hinanau finapos lai casino. Maila` tana fan matatñga hit umaregla ha`anita gi este na asuntu.

Asuntun Moneda

Ume`esalau un` naofragu ginen Luta na mauleg este na bisnis i casino pot "globus". Gi mismu tiempu de hemunos de sumusu Luta gi kahan iya Marianas; lamayot patte inapasen kontribusion tax ginen Saipan. Faktu este na yahu lumi`e kinentra na lacheyu`. Globus pat lobus?

Taya` Luta nina` halolomña salape` ginen iyoña casino gi kahan iya Marianas. Pues manu ni gaige ennau i "globus" na bisinis casino fuera de mañopchup chafflake`?

Gi halom $135 million na monedan Marianas para pa`gu na sakan (fiscal year), kuantu nina` halomña i casinon iya Luta fuera ke sumen yomug na seru na esta nina` reput? Mañgge ayu na balaku ilelegmu paire gi bandan moneda yan accounting?

Mes Kutturan Natibu

Maseñala pa`gu na mes selebrasion kutturan natibu gi todu atmos banda. Mauleg ta ina gi hilu` pinasensia yan antau na inebalua haf` muna` likidu, dignu yan fitme i pegse` kuttura-ta deste antigu na tiempu.

Gi kinalamten-ta, hafa siha na patte gi kustumbreta ta pasa guatu gi famaguon-ta pot para u tuñgu` haf` kutturan niha? Mesklau este na patte gi entalu` sosiat, espirituat yan inadaptan kustumbren otru ni esta patte gi ta praktitika pa`gu.

Sosiatmiente, gaige relasion natibu gi usun tanu` yan tasi. Ta gu`ot tanu` familia para usun famaguon-ta gi mahatsan fanliheñg familian niha mismu. Entre ennau `sino mantension familia gi hechuran hatdin, pinegsai yan peskan tasi.

Gi bandan espirituat, ta fana`gue famaguonta mina`añau yan satton na respetu gi Saina. Anaku` na karera este na finana`gue gi famaguon-ta. Lau siempre u nina` fitme pisun heñiuña gi haf` mauleg na chechu` kilisyanu gi prohimuña. Anog este gi todu moduña deste te pa`gu echu tautau. Este na finana`gue i mas fitme na añklan todu gi karera mona.

Guaha siha estoriata, kantatta, baila yan fina` attikulu ni finatinas attistan natibu. Mas este siha na ineyag mina` likidu haye i man-natibu. Pasensiaye ya in` entrega famaguon miyu haf` mina` likidu yan dignu i kutturan todu atmos banda.

Maisa: Gi todu para ta petsige, debi u tutuhongue` giya hita finenina. Yangin ti kalamten hit pues todu patten tatautau-mu sumilensiu. Taya` otru masusede.

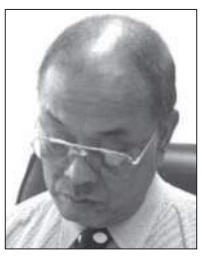
Pot ihemplo: Un` biyinariu duru fumofu sa` ti guiya gumana i biyon pot biyon na lottery. Sige ha disfruta i Saina pot megai ayuduña ya ti mattu giya guiya ayu na suette. Mattu dispues un` añghet ya sinañgane, "Famahan tekit sa` iyomu todu".

Bos Natibu: Mas ke kuarenta años antes hu tutuhon mañgge` kumu gaseteru (journalist). Mana`ihu este na offisiu ginen hilu`. Hu embrasa yan aksepta primera pot yahu mañgge` yan huna` presisu na hu adelanta "bos" lahen natibu gi asunto-ta siha.

Komprendiyon na lamayot patte gi mapasan tradision gaige gi finu` mañaina-ta. Hasan `nai tali`e matuge` haf` finapos natibu. Kasse unuyu` gi halom `nos kuantos ni pumetsige mañgge` pot dañkulu lokue` intereshu lumi`e na un` dia tatuge` estoriata ginen hita mismu.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Kumeke ileghu na i "estoriata" taya` siña tumuge` gi mas antau na eskalera ke mismu natibu. Maila` ta sañgan estoriata ginen hita mismu!

Linguahe: Gi un` konfirensia, sige masoyu` todus na u fan finu` Chamorro. Lau gi mismu tiempu ayu na sineyu` masaulag finu` Eñglis. Ilegña i amiguhu Magoo: "`An ti guahu kaduku` pues siha!"

Pesu: Giya Hawaii i fuetsan pesu ennau i $.85 sientimos. Guine gi tano`ta `nai kuattro besis mas guaguan i gaston nesessidat, kuantu mohon fuetsaña i pesu? Guaha $.10 sientimos? Kuestiona i mañgandidadatu nu este na asuntu.

Casino: Dos casino para umahuchum giya Atlantic City, New Jersey gi uttimon este na mes. Iya Saipan para u baba unu ni dañkulu balin $3 biyon pesus. Taimanu mahatsa este na fasilidat `nai ni hanom, kandet yan sewer tai kepble para u fan mapega? Guaha i man-sabiun I Deni` `nai mahuñgog ayu na palabra i "planu?" Yangin para tafan hanau mona, haf` na duru hit tatte?

Dañkulu na estotbu i manera `nai ma-apprueba lai casino. Pinilota na siha i setbienten publiku lau mahasñgun ma`usa tihoñg kulan mohon siha man-ma`gasta. Man-malefa na hita pumega siha guihe na puestu. Mauleg ta ebalua ya tafanu`e haye profitariu i ma`gas pa`gu na Nobiembre.

Debi ta chule` tatte respetu ni mahasñgon mafa` basula kulan tai pattisipasion i publiku. Sisteman demokrasia este ya i publiku u ma`gas gi todu sustansiau na disposision! Yangin otru hineñgemu pues klaru na chatman-hula` hau deste tutuhon. Nahoñg na insuttu!

Let's talk about the real Ray Rice issue

By LANE FILLER
NEWSDAY

These days it just isn't real until we can see it online. Now that video of Baltimore Ravens player Ray Rice savagely punching his then-fiancee, now his wife, in an elevator earlier this year has surfaced online, he has been let go by his team and suspended indefinitely by the National Football League.

And we are going to have to endure a lot of debate about trivial nonsense while the most important issue gets little play.

We'll get to hear about whether the team did the right thing. For itself? For its image? For its fans? And even for the victim, Janay Rice.

We'll get to hear about whether the NFL did the right thing, with its initial two-game suspension, or the current one. And the talk will be about whether the league is hypocritical, or only cared about the violence once the video disgusted enough people, or didn't have a strong enough reaction until it realized how very angry women and men who oppose violence against women were.

All of this will be debated ad infinitum on talk radio and sports television. But what won't get nearly enough attention is the only important thing here:

Stop beating women. Stop accepting men who beat women. Stop teaching young men it's OK to beat women. Make every conversation about this a real conversation, not about marketing or products but about ending violence against women by abusive men.

That's what the NFL should be talking about, what ESPN should be talking about, what the Ravens should be talking about and what everyone involved should be talking about.

Everything else is trivial in comparison.

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday *editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I-O-U

With the economy hanging by a thread, everyone is trying to make ends meet. You don't even own your salary. By the time it hits your bank account, it belongs to people you owe. You owe CUC, CHC, grandma, and even your next door neighbor. So it's I OWE YOU or I-O-U paydays. Does living paycheck to paycheck worth living for? You see yourself spending more than what you actually earned. You are so depressed that you are sick and tired of being sick and tired.

As a people, we must adjust to our lifestyle. That means letting go of so many things to fit your budget and lifestyle. Remember how you used to get five to seven slices from a can of Spam? Now you cut them so thin it looks like bologna so it's enough to go around. Or how you add water to your bottle of soy sauce because it's running low. Sound funny? Do we have to go as far as marking paper tissue so we could limit what we use?

You're not alone as everyone, including me, is damned by how things are going. Stay optimistic as this election is the most exciting, interesting, bone-crushing election ever. If we all don't vote for the right people in then we just have to blame ourselves. It's not the governor's or a lawmaker's fault. It's our fault collectively as we are voters of what is to become. I'm for change this election. Are you? Stand strong. Be strong, because you are strong. We are living in the test of times and united we can make this dream a reality. I'm Vince Cabrera and I approve this message!

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Bad government needs fixing bad!

The first thing I read after getting back from Portland is more bad government news. You would think our governor's administration would at least use common sense and decent business practices in dealing with Mariana Resort, who should clearly have the first claim to lease the property but here we go again with another CNMI investor being pushed to the side for Best Sunshine, who was supposed to build, not take from someone else. Giving the Mariana Resort away without cause will surely give us a bad reputation among investors. To make it worse, Best Sunshine has already cornered the exclusive gaming market, putting the Dynasty in a very difficult position to find a way to survive and now they want to take hotels from existing investors. They will give citizens $10 million to help with CUC bills, hoping we will look the other way while they literally steal the Mariana Resort worth dozens of millions.

Now we are starting to see the true colors of the financial monster that has literally purchased a big part of our economic future for a measly $30 million. I knew it was going to be some mess when it was exposed that after 10 years this administration didn't even have a site for the casino, so now it starts and Mariana Resort is going to be the second to lose behind the Dynasty and guess who is next—yes, Mr. & Mrs. John and Johnny Mae Public is next (that's us folks). We have to start building infrastructure in the form of roads, power, water, sewer, and the whole lists of infrastructure support at our cost, not Best Sunshine!

The government needs to leave Mariana Resort alone as they built the darn place and lived up to their agreement. This is why unconditional leasing does nothing to attract investors as they can lose everything to the owner when the lease is up. We also saw this form of leasing adversely affect the continued development of the Hyatt as they refused to invest until their lease was renewed. Leasing to businesses that have to build need to be more leaser friendly, with some form of rights to renew with a guaranteed arbitration clause. Both parties have to be honest and fair and this time it's our own government flirting with unfair business practices by taking away the already built Mariana Resort and giving it to another investor. Elementary students can tell you this is not right. How soon they forget the message the people sent in the last election to do the right thing and they still don't get it.

Our bad government's bad business practice of defaulting and changing the requirement for Best Sunshine to build must stop! Make Best Sunshine do what they agreed they would do—that's the business I'm sure most voters want to see done, not a goblin giveaway to Best Sunshine even if Halloween is around the corner! Taking the Mariana Resort and giving it to someone else does not do one thing to build our economy; it just shifts the wealth from the Mariana Resort to Best Sunshine. Voters are not stupid, governor, so hopefully this letter will encourage you to do the right thing even though I doubt you will.

One person has already written about how we need to be careful in how we deal with investors, especially when it is Chinese taking from the Japanese. FYI, the Chinese and the Japanese are not the best of friends and we are already starting to lose some of the Japanese market because of the large increase in Chinese. We need to watch this balancing act very closely and make extremely cautious decisions with investors from these two countries or we could end up chasing the Japanese away.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

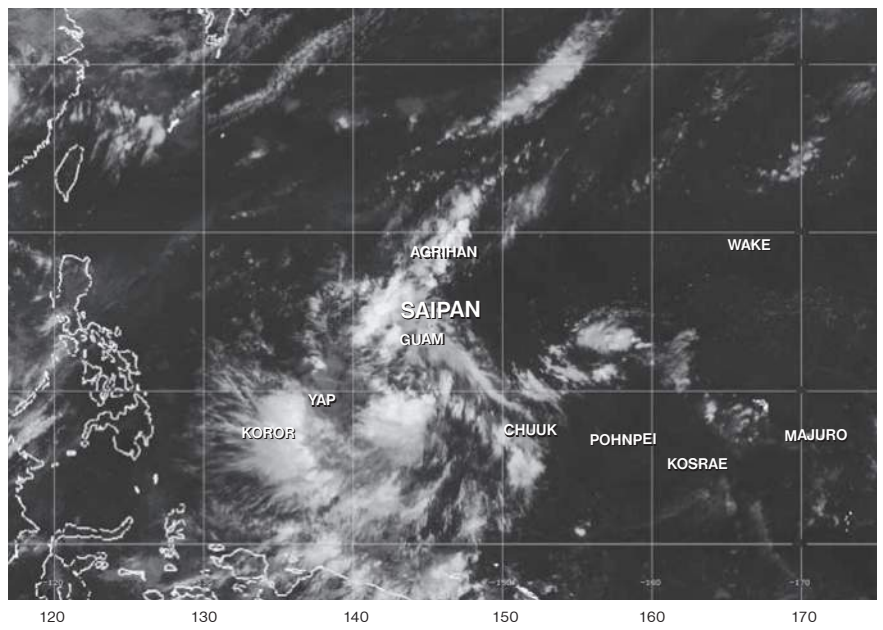
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲82	▼59
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼69
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼39
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲87	▼63
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼60
Paris	Sunny	▲73	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼67
Rome	Showers	▲78	▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲83	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼59
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼65
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is centered east of Yap roughly near 9N144E. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Republic of Palau and Yap state are between 3N and 10N from 135E to 140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Mariana Islands are within 150 miles of a line from 11N140E to 22N148E and east of Yap between 10N and 2N from 140E to 146E. Scattered showers west of Chuuk are within 75 miles of a line from 9N148E to 4N152E. An upper-level low north of Weno Island centered near 12N152E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 14N and 10N from 151E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro to beyond the date line to the east of a line from 8N177E to 3N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:05 PM	7:53 AM
Friday	8:54 PM	8:52 AM
Saturday	9:43 PM	9:49 AM
Sunday	10:33 PM	10:45 AM
Monday	11:22 PM	11:38 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Labor Day tournament in Portland: A family reunion

By AMBROSE M BENNETT
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I was in Portland, Oregon, for the annual Chamorro Labor Day Baseball Tournament and it was an experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

I went there expecting to see a hundred or more locals and a few teams but the numbers were just astounding. There were 22 teams and the crowd was way over a thousand and approaching 2,000, which may qualify this annual event as one of the biggest family reunions on Planet Earth as I'm sure almost everyone there is related to some degree if we could trace them all back in history. There were people who had set up tents with local food and tailgating near the entrances so before you could even get in, they were making everyone feel right at home, offering you free local food way over there in Portland. It was just great!

While there was competition in the various baseball fields in the complex, there was a lot of greetings and "glad to see you" being expressed throughout the complex. I was just overwhelmed by my former students who were constantly yelling, "Hey, Mr. B" and coming up from behind to grab me. It was a teacher's dream come true to see so many of my former students grown up with family, good jobs and careers, and living the American Dream. The only sad part was that many of my former students would rather be back in the CNMI living the American dream but they had no choice as opportunities and prosperity does not presently exist for our youth in the CNMI.

From the moment I got there until the day we left, I felt so welcomed and even appreciated for just being a member and contributor to the local society. I want to thank the founders, especially my late Uncle Gere, along with Mrs. Yvette Sablan for the pictures and the rest of the organizers for starting this great Labor Day experience that has clearly become much more than just a baseball tournament—it's a *dangkulu* local reunion that every local should experience at least once in their lifetime, just like the Muslims are encouraged to visit Mecca for the experience at least once in their lifetime. I can guarantee it will be an experience you will treasure for the rest of your life just like I will and I'm not local, which is revealing as to the true beauty of the experience as it is truly a family reunion.

Pac-Chain

Message of appreciation

Ten years ago in Salem, Oregon, on a weekend after a fun softball game, three teams (Salem Trenchers, Portland Tugong, and Washington's Island Boys) sat and discussed the idea of inviting teams from nearby states to come together for a friendly game of softball. The idea broadened to the importance of unity and keeping our pride and culture alive, such that our children will remember our event(s) and understand that there are more of us out here, and that no matter the distance, our island spirit brings us together.

The tournament's been hosted by Oregon (2), Washington (2), Idaho (2), Nevada (1), California (1), and Arizona (1). Through the years, we have witnessed little boys eventually grow to play alongside their father or even our youth becoming daddies. We've had many families and friends reunite after years of loss of communication or friendship(s) restored and/or even newly established. Year after year, the number of attendees has been increasing as the word spread, and the event held up to its reputation as meaningful, fun, festive, and a memorable family event.

This event however, would not be possible without the hard work of the committee members, the teams and spectators, and equally important, the individuals that supported and contributed one way or another.

In closing, it is our hope that we will continue to see our children and children's children carry the bats, bases, and balls to many more fields of gatherings. Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Olomwaay!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair: Len Wayne Maratita

Treasurer: Deena Boyer-Salas

Secretary: Yvette Sablan

SUBCOMMITTEE:

Fundraising: Chair, Rod Sablan

Entertainment/Planning: Chair, Kelvin Duenas & Co-chair Lief Pangelinan

Banquet: Chair, Ruth Quitugua & Co-chair Beck Duenas

Logistics: Chair, Marvin Ada

Members (Team Managers): Daniel "Jun" Quitugua (Team Ifit)

Joe Seman (670Rebels)

Jay Mundo (Trenchers)

CONFIRMED TEAMS:

1. Maga'lahi-Idaho
2. Pac-chain-Idaho
3. Isao-Las Vegas
4. Figu-Washington
5. Machalapun-Washington
6. Hustlers-Washington
7. Chagi-Aghala-Washington
8. Bulacheru Kings-Washington
9. Marianas Islander 670-Washington
10. Typhoons-California
11. Kmmnwlth-California
12. Sakudi-California
13. Ifit-Portland, Oregon
14. 670 Rebels- Portland, Oregon
15. Kimason-Portland, Oregon (formerly Team Tugong)
16. Trenchers- Salem, Oregon
17. Sufa-Saipan
18. Marianas Built-Saipan
19. Chagi North-Saipan
20. Atmarao-Arizona
21. Figan-Arizona
22. Pinigan-Saipan
23. Brothers in Arms-Soldiers (last minute change of name to BIRAK)

CHAMPS (and Venue):

2005: Portland, Tugong (Salem, Oregon)

2006: Makpo, Saipan (Enumclaw, Washington)

2007: Adai Hao, Idaho (Boise, Idaho)

2008: Saolak, Vegas (Vegas, Nevada)

2009: Taga, California (Escondido, California)

2010: Island Boys, Washington (Kent, Washington)

2011: Pac Chain, Boise Idaho (Portland, Oregon)

2012: Machalapun (Boise, Idaho)

2013: Chamlau (Gilbert, Arizona)

2014: Pac-Chain, Boise (Portland, Oregon)

Homerun Derbies

2006: Eric Palacios, Team Makpo, Saipan

2011: Wilton Ngotel, Kmmnwlth, California

2014: Phillip Manalo, Hustlers, Washington

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 15

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Proctor Silex Electric Kettle **$21.95**

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Galanz Rice cooker 4 cups **$25.95**

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Essential Home 20-Piece Overbrook Flatware Set **$18.95**

Coleman 1/2 Gallon Beverage Cooler **$6.95**

Gourmet Solutions 3 Unit Dish Set **$12.95**

Canon Pixma IP 2820 Inkjet Printer **$49.95**

Soccer Ball size 5 **$12.95**

Cosco My Time Play Yard **$75.95**

Baden Basketball **$8.95**

Balloon Time Standard Helium Ballon Kit **$29.95**

Z Shade Gazebo 13x13 Instant Tent **$179.95**

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Essential Home 3 piece Swivel Stool Set **$99.95**

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Glacier Bay Rnd Het Toilet 2pc **$119.95**

Dirt Devil Vacuum Cleaner **$86.95**

Defiant Mini LED Work Light **$7.95**

Essential Home Ceremic Table Lamp w/ Shade **$9.95**

Hefty 34QT Storage Solutions **$12.95**

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Business

Apple unveils smartwatch, bets on wearable devices

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple unveiled its long-anticipated smartwatch Tuesday, introducing a device that transplants the features of an iPhone onto a smaller screen that's never more than an arm's length away.

Dubbed the Apple Watch, the gadget marks the technology trend-setter's attempt to usher in an era of wearable computing and lift its sales with another revolutionary product.

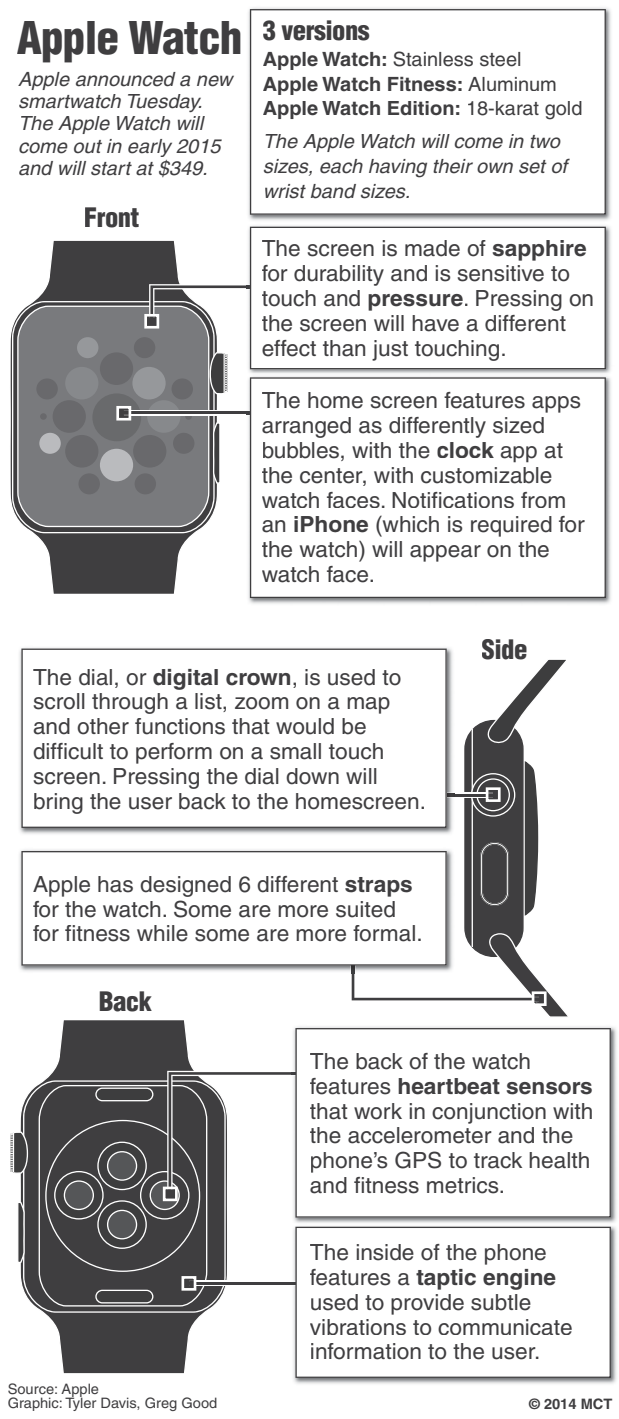
The watch's debut also heralds a turning point in Tim Cook's three-year reign as Apple CEO. Although the company has thrived under Cook's leadership, it had only released upgrades to the iPhone, iPad and other products hatched before his predecessor, Steve Jobs, died in October 2011. The lack of totally new devices raised questions about whether Apple had run out of ideas without the visionary Jobs.

Now Apple is betting on a gadget that seems like something James Bond might wear. The Apple Watch's top-of-the-line edition comes in a casing made of 18-karat gold, with an array of elegant bands available for most models. The watch can serve as a walkie-talkie, a drawing pad, pulse monitor, calorie counter and activity tracker.

"It is amazing what you can do from your wrist," Cook said.

Apple is a late arrival to the still-nascent market for wearable technology. Several other companies already sell smartwatches that have been greeted with widespread indifference.

But Apple has a reputation for igniting dormant markets. Other music players, smartphones and tablet computers were first to market, but the devices did not enthrall consumers until Apple imbued them with its magic touch.


Apple Watch
Apple announced a new smartwatch Tuesday. The Apple Watch will come out in early 2015 and will start at $349.
3 versions
Apple Watch: Stainless steel
Apple Watch Fitness: Aluminum
Apple Watch Edition: 18-karat gold
The Apple Watch will come in two sizes, each having their own set of wrist band sizes.
Front
The screen is made of sapphire for durability and is sensitive to touch and pressure. Pressing on the screen will have a different effect than just touching.
The home screen features apps arranged as differently sized bubbles, with the clock app at the center, with customizable watch faces. Notifications from an iPhone (which is required for the watch) will appear on the watch face.
Side
The dial, or digital crown, is used to scroll through a list, zoom on a map and other functions that would be difficult to perform on a small touch screen. Pressing the dial down will bring the user back to the homescreen.
Apple has designed 6 different straps for the watch. Some are more suited for fitness while some are more formal.
Back
The back of the watch features heartbeat sensors that work in conjunction with the accelerometer and the phone's GPS to track health and fitness metrics.
The inside of the phone features a taptic engine used to provide subtle vibrations to communicate information to the user.
Source: Apple
Graphic: Tyler Davis, Greg Good
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US job openings stay near 13-year high; hiring up

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of U.S. job openings remained near the highest level in 13 years in July, and companies also stepped up hiring that month to the fastest pace in nearly seven years, two signs the job market is slowly healing.

The tally of available jobs ticked down 2,000 to 4.673 million in July, from 4.675 million in June, the Labor Department said Tuesday. June's figure was the highest since February 2001.

The drop was led by a decline in government job postings. Businesses actually advertised slightly more jobs.

Total hiring, meanwhile, jumped 81,000 to 4.87 million, the highest level since December 2007, when the Great Recession began. That indicates companies are more likely to fill their open jobs. Still, that is below the pre-recession average of just over 5 million hires a month.

The figures suggest the job market is still making progress, despite last week's mildly disappointing employment report. That report showed that employers added a net total of just 142,000 jobs in August, the fewest since December. The unemployment rate fell to 6.1 percent from 6.2 percent, but only because some of those out of work gave up looking. The government doesn't count people as unemployed unless they are actively searching.

Nike, others end business relationship with Rice

Ray Rice's indefinite suspension from the NFL for domestic violence will cost him income from endorsements in addition to his $4 million in salary.

Nike and Electronic Arts are among the businesses that announced Tuesday they have cut ties with Rice following the release of a video showing the former Baltimore Ravens running back striking his then-fiancee in February.

Nike Inc. confirmed its decision to end its relationship with Rice via an email. EA Sports made the announcement that it will take his image out of the Madden `15 video game on its "Madden NFL" official Twitter account.

Two other companies, BodyArmor sports drink and VertiMax sports training equipment, disassociated themselves from Rice earlier this year.

Rice made an estimated $1.6 million a year from endorsements, according to Forbes magazine.

On Monday TMZ Sports released a grainy video showing Rice and Janay Palmer in an elevator at an Atlantic City, New Jersey, casino. Each hits the other before Rice knocks Palmer off her feet and into a railing. Months ago, a TMZ video showed Rice dragging Palmer, now his wife, from the elevator at the Revel casino.

"He may have had a slight chance of saving his marketability before that video came out (Monday)," San Francisco sports marketing analyst Bob Dorfman said. "The violence of the video, and just the horrific nature of it, you've seen what it's done to the public opinion of him." ***(AP)***

Nation

Same-sex marriage heading for high court vote?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Both sides in the gay marriage debate agree on one thing: It's time for the Supreme Court to settle the matter.

Even a justice recently said she thinks so, too.

The emerging consensus makes it likely that the justices soon will agree to take up the question of whether the Constitution forbids states from defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. A final ruling isn't likely before June 2015, but a decision to get involved could come as soon as the end of this month.

"I don't see a lot of reasons for them to wait," says Dale Carpenter, a gay rights expert at the University of Minnesota law school. "You have almost no one at this point opposed to certiorari," the legal term for high court review.

Officials in five states in which marriage bans were struck down by federal courts have rushed their appeals to the Supreme Court, in time for consideration by the justices when they meet in private on Sept. 29. Moving at breakneck speed, at least for the legal system, Indiana and Wisconsin filed appeals on Tuesday, just five days after the federal appeals court in Chicago struck down their state bans. The Chicago decision itself came just nine days after judges heard arguments, extremely fast for a process that usually is measured in months. Officials in Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia also have appealed to the Supreme Court.

Adding to the momentum, the winners in all those cases—who typically want to preserve their lower court victories and would normally oppose Supreme Court review—want the justices to weigh in. As expected, so do the losers.

In all, 36 states, encompassing both those that allow same-sex marriage and those that don't, want the justices to join the fray. Thirty businesses, including Alcoa, Amazon, eBay, General Electric, Intel, NIKE, Pfizer and Target, say the Supreme Court should extend same-sex marriage nationwide because the "current patchwork of state laws causes employees justifiable uncertainty about how their employers and governments will treat their familial relationships."

The range of cases seems to meet the standard set by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg when she predicted in an interview with The Associated Press in July that the court would not look for ways to avoid ruling on same-sex marriage, as it did for many years on interracial marriage bans.

"I think the court will not do what they did in the old days when they continually ducked the issue of miscegenation," Ginsburg said. "If a case is properly before the court, they will take it."

Ferguson reforms met with rancor at city meeting

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP)—Efforts by city leaders in the St. Louis suburb where an unarmed black 18-year-old was fatally shot by a white police officer to repair the local government's fractured relationship with its residents got off to a rocky start Tuesday at the first public meeting of elected officials since Michael Brown's death.

The shooting last month exposed an undercurrent of racial unrest in Ferguson and other nearby suburbs in mostly black communities of north St. Louis County, and prompted days of sometimes-violent protests.

The Ferguson City Council announced a set of proposals this week that include reducing the revenue from court fines used for general city operations and reforming court procedures. Critics say reliance on court revenue and traffic fines to fund city services more heavily penalizes low-income defendants who can't afford private attorneys and who are often jailed for not promptly paying those fines.

The city also plans to establish a citizens' review board to help guide the police department.

Within minutes of the start of Tuesday night's meeting—where the proposals were being discussed—several demonstrators stood up and shouted as the council tried to cover some routine business. Later, others stood up and chanted, "Shut it down!" while raising their hands in the air. Protesters have used the gesture because several witnesses say Brown had raised his hands as officer Darren Wilson shot him.

The first speaker to take the microphone during the public comment period said he was there for the mayor's job. It was a theme echoed throughout, as speaker after speaker expressed doubt about the city's planned reforms—and anger at the government officials seated on the podium.

"You've lost your authority to govern this community," said St. Louis activist John Chasnoff. "You're going to have to step aside peacefully if this community is going to heal."

Three hours later, the meeting concluded, with prospective speakers still lined up at a pair of microphones.

NYC police: Terror threat more complex than ever

NEW YORK (AP)—Air strikes in Iraq, ongoing unrest in Syria and the beheadings of two American journalists are casting a long shadow over the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

While there is no specific threat against New York ahead of the Thursday commemoration, the rising power of disparate militant groups around the world presents the most complex terrorism danger since the twin towers were destroyed, New York intelligence officials said this week.

"It is layer upon layer upon layer—not all coming from the same place or ideology," said John Miller, the New York Police Department's deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterterrorism.

That differs from five years ago, when the risk was chiefly from al-Qaida, Miller said. Now, he said, the threat is also coming from the well-funded, highly sophisticated "mass marketing of terrorism"—affiliate groups, foreign fighters, uprising militants and the idea of "al-Qaida-ism."

"When you look at the level of sophistication, the amount of slickness applied to their video production, the amount of thought that goes into creating a narrative," he said, "They're doing the same kind of thing as we've seen in commercial publishing or in the ad industry."

New York remains the top target, and that makes preparing for big events, including the U.S. Open tennis tournament, the United Nations General Assembly and the Sept. 11 commemoration, that much more critical, officials said. Plus, President Barack Obama plans this week to outline an expanded U.S. campaign against militants in Iraq and Syria following the beheadings of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

The White House said in a statement that Obama met Tuesday with senior administration officials to review security threats and preparedness ahead of the 9/11 anniversary.

New York Police Commissioner William Bratton said the department is prepared.

Asia

Raging floods kill over 440 in Pakistan, India

JHANG, Pakistan (AP)—Raging monsoon floods sweeping across India and Pakistan have killed more than 440 people, authorities said Tuesday, warning hundreds of thousands more to be prepared to flee their homes as helicopters and boats raced to save marooned victims.

AP

Kashmiris hang on to a tree to prevent being swept away by floodwaters in Srinagar, India, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014.

Authorities in Pakistan say the floods, which began Sept. 3, are the worst since massive flooding killed 1,700 people in 2010. Pakistan's minister for water and power, Khwaja Mohammad Asif, warned parliament that some 700,000 people have been told to leave their homes, which could be inundated in the next four days.

Pakistani and Indian troops have been using boats and helicopters to drop food supplies for stranded families and evacuate victims. However, the challenge of the situation grows as more than 1.5 million people are now affected as the rushing waters have destroyed the homes of thousands of families.

"This is a sad moment for all of us," Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said, addressing flood victims in the country's Hafiz district. "These floods came suddenly and no one knew that such a large flood was coming."

The floods have triggered landslides in the divided Kashmir region, split between the two arch rivals, and caused much devastation in northern and eastern Pakistan.

The rains washed away houses, bridges, communication equipment and crops. Pakistani and Indian troops say they have evacuated more than 60,000 people.

Others have waded through waist-deep water to escape the floods, as women carried household items and children on their shoulders as others dragged their livestock along. On roadsides, families set up makeshift camps. Hundreds of others remain stranded on the rooftops, waving for help to every passing helicopter.

On a road near the village of Jamia Abad in the eastern Pakistani district of Jhang, Naseem Akhtar, 41, said she had gone from one government office to another, trying to get someone to help her husband and other family members who had stayed back in their now-submerged village.

Last time she talked to her husband by phone was on Monday night, when he told her that they were sitting on the roof waiting to be rescued, she said.

"I went to the police, I tried to find a private boat, but nothing, there is no help," she said.

PH president, rebel agree on autonomy bill

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president and a Muslim rebel leader secretly met last week and helped resolve thorny differences over a proposed autonomy law that threatened to stall efforts to end decades of rebellion in the south, officials and the insurgents said Monday.

President Benigno Aquino III and Al Haj Murad Ebrahim of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front agreed to endorse a draft of the proposed legislation after meeting for more than two hours at the presidential palace Thursday, presidential adviser Teresita Deles said.

Aquino will submit the bill to Congress on Wednesday, bringing efforts by the government and the 11,000-strong insurgent force to end one of southeast Asia's longest-raging Muslim insurgencies a step closer. The rebellion has killed thousands and hampered progress in a resource-rich frontier region that is home to minority Muslims in this largely Roman Catholic nation.

The government and the Moro insurgent group, the largest of at least four in the south, signed a new deal in March that aims to establish a more powerful and potentially larger Muslim autonomous region to be called Bangsamoro. Under the deal, the rebels agreed to eventually disband their guerrilla forces in exchange for broader autonomy.

Differences, however, threatened to stall the drafting of the autonomy bill.

Aquino's top aides met behind closed-door with rebel commanders to try to patch up differences, including the extent of power and territory of the Muslim region and wording of the draft legislation. The president and Murad met to resolve the final issues.

"It was like a championship boxing match," said rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal. "And there are more bouts to come."

Deles, however, said both sides have committed to overcome major disagreements.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam accuses China of beating fishermen

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has accused Chinese authorities of beating its fishermen and has demanded severe punishment for those involved. Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted on its website late Tuesday that a Vietnamese fishing vessel which was fishing normally near the Paracel islands on Aug. 15 was intercepted by two Chinese speedboats. The Chinese on the speedboats vandalized the fishing boat, illegally confiscated some property and beat the fishermen. It says that Chinese vessels also harassed two Vietnamese fishing boats in two other separate incidents earlier in August.

Strong earthquake hits off eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake hit off the coast of eastern Indonesia's Sulawesi island on Wednesday, causing panic among residents, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. Authorities said there was no threat of a tsunami. The magnitude-6.5 quake struck at a depth of 22.5 kilometers (13 miles) and was centered about 122 kilometers (76 miles) southeast of Mondayang, a town in northern Sulawesi, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake had no potential to trigger a tsunami, said Subagyo, an official at Indonesia's meteorological and geophysics agency who like many Indonesians uses one name. The temblor was felt in Manado, the provincial capital of North Sulawesi, with the national disaster agency saying residents poured into the streets in panic.

World

Obama to seek arms, training for Syrian opposition

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will ask Congress to quickly authorize the arming and training of Syrian opposition forces but will press forward without formal sign-off from lawmakers on a broader military and political effort to combat militants in Syria and Iraq, administration officials said Tuesday.

Obama was to outline his plans Wednesday in a rare prime-time address to the nation, a format that underscores the seriousness of the threat posed by the Islamic State militants. The president's broader strategy could include more wide-ranging airstrikes against targets in Iraq and possibly in Syria, and hinges on military and political commitments from allies in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

Ahead of his address, the president huddled with congressional leaders at the White House. Following the hourlong discussion, the White House said Obama told lawmakers that he "has the authority he needs to take action" against the Islamic State militants but would still welcome action from Congress that would "aid the overall effort and demonstrate to the world that the United States is united in defeating the threat."

Even before Obama's meeting with Senate and House leaders Tuesday, some lawmakers suggested a congressional vote on the president's plans was unlikely before the midterm elections in November.

"As a practical matter, I don't really see the time that it would take to really get this out and have a full debate and discuss all the issues," said Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

For Obama, a sustained U.S. intervention in the Middle East is at odds with the vision he had for the region when he ran for president on a pledge to end the war in Iraq, where the role of American fighting forces drew to a close nearly three years ago. The timing of his announcement Wednesday night was all the more striking, with Obama's address to the nation scheduled just hours before anniversary commemorations of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Among the president's most urgent priorities will be seeking authorization from Congress to arm more moderate elements of the opposition fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Wreckage scattered in Ukraine as inquiry released

HRABOVE, Ukraine (AP)—A child's jump rope, its yellow handles blistered and charred. A burned book in Tagalog. Chunks of twisted fuselage. More than seven weeks after being shot from the sky, the wreckage from Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 still lay strewn Tuesday across the fields of eastern Ukraine.

As evidence of the July 17 aviation disaster that killed all 298 people on board remained exposed to the elements, investigators hundreds of miles away in the Netherlands—who have not yet visited the crash site because it is deemed too dangerous—released a preliminary report that left key questions unanswered.

The plane had no mechanical or other technical problem in the seconds before it broke up in the sky after being struck by multiple "high-energy objects from outside the aircraft," the report said.

There were multiple punctures in the cockpit and front section of the fuselage, it said—damage that could be caused by a missile that detonates in front of its target and peppers it with small chunks of metal. However, investigators did not identify the source of the fragments or say who fired them.

Although the report drew no conclusions about responsibility, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the findings were consistent with "our original assessment, that it was likely shot down by one of these surface-to-air missiles fired from separatist-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine."

"I'm unaware of other objects or ways that it could be brought down that are consistent with that finding," Harf said of the report. "It highlights questions for which Russia must still answer."

The slow pace of the inquiry, its cautious preliminary conclusion and the fact that wreckage and human remains are still lying in Ukraine frustrated and angered victims' families.

"Well, I don't know what to say about this," said Samira Calehr, a Dutch mother who lost two sons, 11-year-old Miguel and 19-year-old Shaka, in the crash.

She said that she wants the people responsible for downing the plane brought to justice "as soon as possible," pausing for emphasis on every word. "I want to know who killed my children."

Tough road ahead for Iraq leader after govt formed

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's new prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, has a daunting task ahead of him: With the world watching, the Shiite politician must unify a deeply divided country against Sunni militants who have seized much of its territory.

First, though, he must find officials to run the defense and interior ministries who will be acceptable to Iraq's parliament, which approved his Cabinet late Monday except for those positions along with a few lesser posts.

The Islamic State group's lightning advance across much of northern and western Iraq has driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes since June. It prompted the U.S. to launch aid operations and airstrikes in hopes of boosting the waning efforts of Iraqi and Kurdish forces looking to regain control of lost territory, including five more strikes Monday and Tuesday to protect the Haditha Dam.

The success of outreach efforts to Iraq's alienated Sunni minority will be a key part of international efforts to beat back the Islamic State militants, who also control parts of neighboring Syria. French President Francois Hollande also will travel to Iraq on Friday to help prepare an international conference to back Iraq's efforts against the group.

Addressing lawmakers, al-Abadi said the central government, which includes all major religious and ethnic groups in Iraq, must make sure that cities and provinces have enough money to deliver basic services. He also emphasized the need to provide housing and education to more than a million people displaced by the militants' advance.

Like many positions in the Iraqi government, the job of defense minister has, in recent years, traditionally been assigned to a Sunni, while the interior minister has been a Shiite. Some lawmakers say the country is at too critical a juncture to put so much emphasis on sect.

"I have fears that the vacant posts, mainly the defense and interior, will be run without ministers or be given to persons affiliated with political parties instead of to people who are independent and professional," Hamid al-Mutlaq, a Sunni lawmaker from Anbar province, told The Associated Press.

Focus

Official history of Hirohito dodges controversies

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and KEN MORITSUGU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—A 12,000-page history of Emperor Hirohito released in Japan on Tuesday includes childhood letters to his parents but steps gingerly around what many want to know: his thinking on issues such as his responsibility for World War II. The record took 24 years to create, but scholars and journalists say it is still incomplete.

The official annals released by the Imperial Household Agency, a tradition dating back 14 centuries, provide a detailed timeline of Hirohito's life but don't appear to shed much new light on a 62-year reign that spanned Japan's brutal invasion of much of Asia and its reconstruction and emergence as a global economic power in the postwar years.

The 61-volume record "hardly contained anything new that reverses conventional wisdom and history," the liberal-leaning Mainichi newspaper said in an editorial. "We must keep asking ourselves why that catastrophic war could not be avoided. ... The question is hardly resolved."

The conservative Yomiuri newspaper noted that the annals left out Hirohito's own words on Yasukuni Shrine, where war dead are deified, and criticized the palace for attempting to avoid trouble.

Instead, the official history cites a 2006 scoop by the Nikkei newspaper, which obtained a memo written by a former head of the Imperial Household Agency that quoted Hirohito as expressing displeasure over the shrine's decision to include Class-A war criminals. The memo itself, which some researchers and journalists were hoping to see, was left out of the record, according to Japanese media reports.

Chris Winkler, a senior research fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo, said giving an official imprimatur to Hirohito's remarks would have risked enraging Japan's vocal right-wing.

"They don't want any trouble," he said of the Imperial Household Agency. "They just want the emperor or the imperial institution to stay out of trouble. That's their primary concern."

The record conveys some of the frustrations Hirohito felt early in his reign, through some of the 10,000 "waka" poems he is believed to have written. Only about 900 of the poems are known, including three new ones discovered during the project.

In one, written a few years after ascending the throne in 1926, he lamented that his ideas were not being reflected in palace policies, according to Japanese media reports. Two other poems from 1929 refer to "a missing fruit," an allusion to the frugal life at the palace during the global economic slump.

The history says Hirohito was first notified of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city of Hiroshima nearly 12 hours after the blast on Aug. 6, 1945, according to Japanese media reports.

It says Hirohito judged on the evening of Aug. 8 that it had "become impossible to continue the war" and expressed hope that the war would be concluded "as swiftly as possible," according to the reports. The United States dropped another atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki the next day, and Hirohito announced Japan's surrender on Aug. 15.

The practice of documenting an emperor's reign follows a Chinese tradition, though in earlier times the records were intended mainly for the imperial household.

The annals of Hirohito's grandfather, the Meiji emperor, didn't start coming out until 1968, more than 50 years after his death. The record of Hirohito's father, the Taisho emperor, was only released in 2002 after the Asahi newspaper filed a public records request, and parts were blacked out, triggering criticism.

Hirohito's official history was completed this year and presented to his son, current emperor Akihito, in August. The 24-year project cost 200 million yen ($1.9 million), not including personnel costs for a staff that averaged about 26 people.

The release of the history was the lead story in Japan's major newspapers Tuesday, playing bigger than tennis star Kei Nishikori's bid for the U.S. Open championship.

The relatively quick release of Hirohito's record, 25 years after his death in 1989, was welcomed as progress by the media and scholars. It's also the first time the annals were written in modern Japanese, instead of a less-accessible archaic form of the language. None of the annals was blacked out, though that left many wondering what was left out.

Hirohito "is a first-rate witness of his era, which is an extremely turbulent part of Japanese history, and historical studies of that era are moving forward beyond views that tend to see the royals as taboo," the Nikkei newspaper said Tuesday. "But we should remember that the record is not a complete documentation of his accounts and try to read the Imperial Household Agency's intentions."

AP

In this 1937 file photo, Emperor Hirohito salutes from his mount, his favorite white horse, during a military review in Tokyo. Japan's longest-serving emperor has received one of the longest-ever official histories, but despite being 24 years in the making and 12,000 pages long, scholars and journalists say the annals of the former emperor are still incomplete. In a tradition that dates back 14 centuries, the Imperial Household Agency released a 61-volume history on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014 that includes childhood letters to his parents while stepping gingerly around what many really want to know: Hirohito's thinking on issues such as his responsibility for World War II and the Yasukuni shrine for the war dead.

AP

In this Sept. 27, 1945 file photo, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, left, poses with Japan's Emperor Hirohito during the latter's visit to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo for their first meeting.

Environment

SPC supporting organic growers to enter markets

In the Pacific region, organic production is both traditional and new. It is traditional in the sense that the majority of producers use tried and tested practices handed down from generation to generation that are generally in harmony with the environment and with modern organic principles. It is new in that Pacific Island countries and territories are starting to understand the benefits of certification for obtaining access to external markets and negotiating fairer trading partnerships, and the need for research and training to develop the sector and generate much-needed livelihoods for their people.

The expense and complexity of organic certification has been a constraint to industry development. Addressing the certification issue is a priority for the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community, or POETCom as it is commonly known, which, with support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and funding through the European Union Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade project, has initiated the Pacific Organic Guarantee Scheme to provide relevant certification options for Pacific organic producers based on the Pacific Organic Standard.

The Pacific Organic Standard was adopted as the official regional organic standard by the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry in the region in 2008 and it has become well recognized internationally through its acceptance into the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement Family of Standards, which sets the benchmarks for organic standards worldwide. The Pacific Organic Standard is the third regional organic standard in the world and the first to have regulations that relate specifically to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Pacific Organic Guarantee Scheme includes participatory guarantee schemes, or PGSs, and third party export certification. It also aims to identify organic products from the Pacific clearly on the shelf through the "Organic Pasifika" branding and, over time, build an awareness of the amazing array of organic products available in our region and develop trade in organic products between the Pacific Islands and other regions.

SPC

Examples of the range of certified organic and fair trade products now being exported from the Pacific are on display at the POETCom stand during the United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States at the SIDS Village in Apia.

PGSs are low-cost locally managed organic certification schemes designed to build farmer capacity through exchange and peer review and to provide a credible guarantee to consumers that the product they are purchasing is really organic. There are exciting developments already, with the PGS established in New Caledonia "BioCaledonia" planning to open two local specialty stores in Noumea in 2014 specializing in organic produce from the region and initiating inter-Pacific Island trade in organic produce based on PGS certification. French Polynesia has also established a PGS and four more are in development in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Kiribati. Products certified include fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, local nuts, sugar made from coconut toddy, and virgin coconut oil.

Export certification is being developed in collaboration with three partner certifying agencies: Biogro NZ, Bioagricert and the National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Australia. These certifying bodies signed a memorandum of understanding with POETCom and SPC in 2013 to provide export certification services to the POS and assist in building capacity for organic certification in the region through such activities as training local audit capacity and participating in the POETCom Standards and Certification Committee. Organic exports from the region are growing steadily, with over 50 certified groups and exporters and over 15,000 small holder farmers benefiting. Some of the success stories including virgin coconut oil, spices, coffee. ***(SPC)***

UN climate agency reports carbon dioxide growing at alarming rate

Carbon dioxide accumulation in the atmosphere reached a record high last year and grew at the fastest rate in 30 years, the United Nations' climate agency reported Tuesday.

The World Meteorological Organization's latest Greenhouse Gas Bulletin "injected even greater urgency into the need for concerted international action against accelerating and potentially devastating climate change," the U.N. agency said.

"We know without any doubt that our climate is changing and our weather is becoming more extreme due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels," said WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud in Geneva.

The bulletin compiles assessments of annual concentration of the three most enduring greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide—which are blamed for 88 percent of the increase in global temperature, WMO said.

Jarraud called for developed and developing countries to commit to a binding formula for reducing emissions and limiting global warming to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit over the pre-industrial global temperature, calculated as that in 1750.

The concentration of heat-trapping carbon dioxide increased last year by 2.9 ppm, or parts per million, to 396 ppm, the biggest annual increase since 1984, WMO said. Some climate scientists believe concentrations below 350 ppm to be relatively safe, but that is a level not seen since 1987.

The agency's bulletin included a report on the greenhouse gas emissions' effect on ocean quality for the first time. The oceans "cushion" the impact of carbon in the atmosphere by absorbing about a quarter of the worldwide emissions, the report said, but with alarming consequences for the water.

"The current rate of ocean acidification appears unprecedented at least over the last 300 million years," the bulletin stated.

Wendy Watson-Wright, executive secretary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, warned that time is running out in the mission to prevent devastating climate change.

"It is high time the ocean, as the primary driver of the planet's climate and attenuator of climate change, becomes a central part of climate change discussions," said Watson-Wright.

The oceans take up about 8.8 pounds of carbon dioxide per person per day, the report said. Increased acidification alters "calcifying organisms" like coral, mollusks and algae, and reduces the survival and growth rates of other aquatic species, the bulletin noted. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Pacific organic growers: Strengthening traditional ways and supporting dev't

Dedicated and passionate Pacific organic farmers are working hard to combat challenges such as the effects of climate change, degradation of ecosystems due to unsustainable use of both land and marine resources, and the need to generate livelihoods to maintain island populations.

The other side of these region-wide challenges is the trend to lower production of local food and high consumption of imported refined foods, which is seriously affecting people's health.

The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community, or POETCom as it is known, was originally established by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community as a technical committee. POETCom has now evolved to become an inclusive membership-based umbrella organization and the region's peak body for promoting organic and ethical trade. SPC hosts the POETCom Secretariat at its Suva offices.

"POETCom arose from the belief that our traditional organic farming practices—when strengthened, coordinated, and shared—can meet the changing needs of our region and people," said Karen Mapusua, POETCom coordinator. "Our members, largely farmer groups, are working hard to achieve our vision: 'Pacific organics and ethical trade—the key contributor to sustaining our cultures and communities, improving farmer livelihoods, people's health and the environment in the Pacific.'"

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa last week, Sept. 1-4, provided an opportunity for SPC and POETCom to highlight the achievements and impact of the Pacific organic movement on sustainable development in the region.

POETCom's work in partnership with SPC was featured in several side events at the conference, including one led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, "More than cocoa and coconuts," which presented a case study of Cicia Island in Fiji. The people of Cicia have achieved organic certification for their products and their island has been declared fully organic. The project, which ends in December 2014, has been funded by IFAD. ***(SPC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In partnership with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, the side event, "Organic Islands: role and potential for organic agriculture in sustainable development," is registered on the SIDS Partnership platform, illustrating the role of organics in economic development, food security and resilience to climate change. Organically certified ginger, vanilla, virgin coconut oil, coffee, cocoa, fruit juice, dried fruit, noni products and high-value cosmetic oils from seven Pacific Island countries were on display at the SIDS Village, giving delegates an opportunity to see the potential of the sector first-hand.

Life & Style

Florida, Ohio contestants win Miss America prelims

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Contestants from Florida and Ohio won the first night of preliminary competition in the Miss America pageant on a night that saw one of the contestants collapse onstage.

Miss Florida Victoria Cowen won the swimsuit competition Tuesday, while Miss Ohio Mackenzie Bart won the talent competition for a ventriloquism routine.

The awards were announced moments after Miss Rhode Island, Ivy DePew, collapsed onstage and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Pageant officials said she appeared to be overheated but predicted she would be all right.

DePew was standing in the back row of contestants at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall when she collapsed during an awards presentation by New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno.

Dena Blizzard, the pageant's host, told the audience "She just got a little overheated."

Sharon Pearce, president of the Miss America Organization, said DePew would be fine.

"She fainted, but she will be OK," Pearce told The Associated Press.

Sam Haskell III, CEO of the Miss America Organization, said DePew was alert and talking as she left Boardwalk Hall with her family en route to a hospital. He did not know if she would need to stay overnight.

DePew had competed earlier in the evening in the pageant's swimsuit and evening gown competition.

Bart wowed the crowd with a ventriloquism routine in which her dummy appeared to sing the Mary Poppins song "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

"I was obsessed with Lamb Chop and I loved Shari Lewis," Bart told reporters afterward. "I used to sit with an old sock and I would mimic what they were doing. I just loved it."

The start of competition came on the same day that yet another casino company, Trump Entertainment Resorts, filed for bankruptcy and threatened to close what will soon be its lone remaining casino, the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, in November. It would be the fifth of the 12 casinos Atlantic City began the year with to close this year.

So the start of the Miss America pageant, an Atlantic City icon for generations, is a welcome diversion for some from the bad news settling over the city like Boardwalk fog.

"Our hearts go out to the many, many people who have lost their jobs," Haskell said. "We hope that the Miss America competition, the Show Us Your Shoes parade and all the wonderful events this week are going to help bring some happiness and joy to this great city that serves as the birthplace of Miss America. We know what's going on here and we want to be something positive."

The next Miss America will be crowned Sunday night.

With 'Wild,' deja vu for 'Dallas Buyers' director

TORONTO (AP)—You can imagine big-name actors queuing outside Jean-Marc Vallee's door: "Mr. Vallee, may I please have a McConaissance, too?"

Though a relatively new name to moviegoers, the Quebecois filmmaker has quickly established himself as a sought-after actor's director. A year after premiering "Dallas Buyer Club" at the Toronto International Film Festival, Vallee is back with another movie likely be a constant on the awards circuit, also led by a veteran actor achieving career renewal.

In "Wild," Reese Witherspoon stars as Cheryl Strayed, who chronicled her journey on the Pacific Crest Trail in her best-selling memoir of the same name. Freshly divorced and pained by the death of her mother (Laura Dern in the film), Strayed was ill-prepared for her long hike but found an emotional catharsis in the wilderness. The film has already drawn acclaim that's likely to propel it into the Oscars, particularly for Witherspoon's unadorned performance.

Vallee

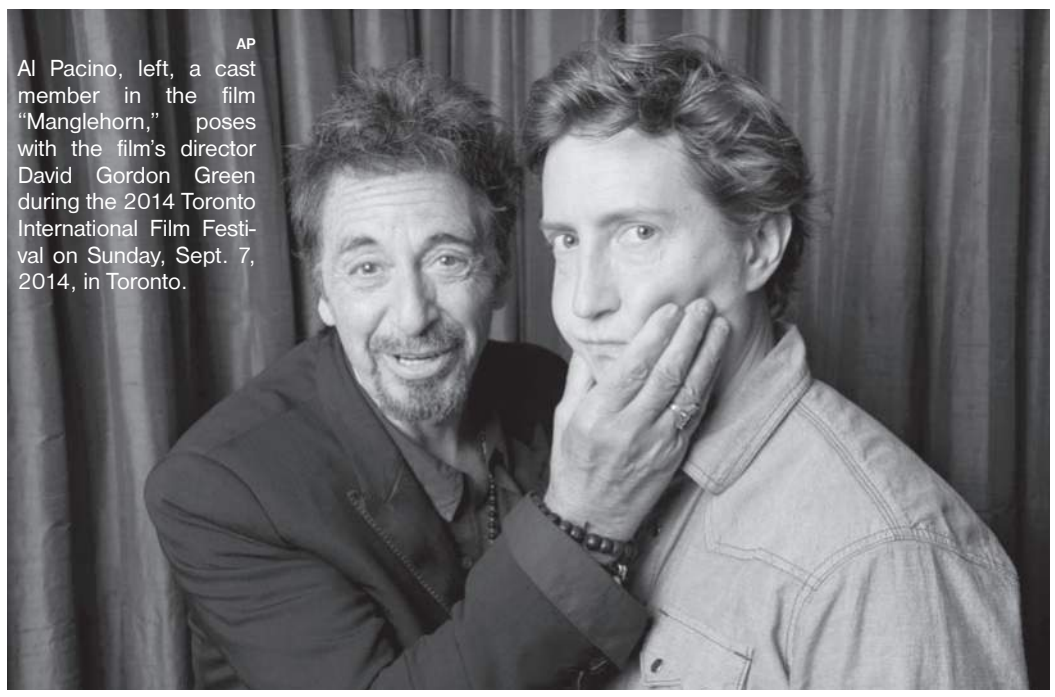
"It's deja vu," said Valle, chuckling, in an interview. "Here I am again, almost in the same situation with an actress who got out of her comfort zone, just like McConaughey did."

The 51-year-old Montreal director had made several features, including the 2009 British monarchy drama "The Young Victoria," before the Oscar-winning sensation of "Dallas Buyers Club." But with its award-winning performances from McConaughey and Jared Leto, "Dallas Buyers Club" made Vallee a hotly pursued director.

What gives Vallee his Midas touch with actors? More than anything, it's his naturalistic approach to filmmaking.

He shoots with hand-held cameras and gives his cast freedom to improvise the script and roam in a scene's location. "Wild," which Fox Searchlight will release Dec. 5, was shot up and down the Pacific Coast Trail with a makeup-less Witherspoon lugging her own 45 pound (21 kilogram) backpack.

With 2 new films, Pacino keeps experimenting



AP
Al Pacino, left, a cast member in the film "Manglehorn," poses with the film's director David Gordon Green during the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in Toronto.

TORONTO (AP)—Introducing one of Al Pacino's two films at the Toronto Film Festival, artistic director Cameron Baily remarked that perhaps an "Al Pacino Day" was in order, just as it had been for Bill Murray.

At 74, Pacino debuted his latest batch of work at the festival, both films that find him exploring the regrets, ambitions and ruts of old age. In David Gordon Green's "Manglehorn," he plays a lonely Texas locksmith, mourning a bygone romance despite the interest of a friendly bank teller (Holly Hunter). In the more meta "The Humbling," directed by Barry Levinson and adapted from the Philip Roth novel, Pacino plays an aging stage actor no longer interested in performing.

"Aging seems to have gotten a bit of a bad rap," Pacino said in an interview. "Like, what do you do now? Someone says how old are you, that's like saying how long do I have left. I can't answer that question."

Pacino has been particularly busy in recent years, showing the same curiosity for more elderly characters as he brought to more youthful or middle-aged roles throughout his career on screen and on stage.

"We grow in a lot of different ways, and if you listen to your cycles or feel it, that takes you," Pacino says. "A lot of times I haven't, but I'm starting to. These things I'm doing are expressions of that. I'm trying to be aware of that. I think I can enter that world. There are things I wouldn't do now that I would have done 20 years ago. I don't feel it. I'm not there."

"Manglehorn" doesn't have distribution but its earned Pacino rave reviews. The Guardian called it "the finest performance Pacino has delivered in years." Far from the sort of film most septuagenarians would contemplate, it evidences Pacino's abiding interest in experimentation. He's not cementing a legacy, but continuing to stretch.

The film was made quickly in between work on "The Humbling" (due out Nov. 21) a project Pacino started himself by buying the rights to the novel.

"We had this window of time to do it in, and I knew if we let it past, David wouldn't do the movie," says Pacino. "Which I, first of all, love the idea of. Because he wrote it for me."

Green, the hard-to-pin-down director of "George Washington" and "Pineapple Express," began pondering a film with Pacino after an earlier unrelated meeting. He saw something in the actor that hadn't previously been captured in his movies, and asked his friend, Paul Logan, to pen a script for them.

"There was a way he was listening when other people would be talking, and a true intensity in that, and absolutely tuned in," Green says. "Something about the sliver of smile, the furrow of the eyebrow."

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Sept. 8, 2014:

TOP SONGS
1. All About That Bass, Meghan Trainor
2. Shake It Off, Taylor Swift
3. Bang Bang, Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
4. Black Widow (feat. Rita Ora), Iggy Azalea
5. Anaconda, Nicki Minaj
6. Break Free (feat. Zedd), Ariana Grande
7. Maps, Maroon 5
8. Rather Be feat. Jess Glynne, Clean Bandit
9. Rude, MAGIC!
10. Chandelier, Sia

TOP ALBUMS
1. V, Maroon 5
2. Seen It All: The Autobiography, Jeezy
3. Guardians of the Galaxy: Aweso..., Various Artists
4. In the Lonely Hour, Sam Smith
5. Old Boots, New Dirt, Jason Aldean
6. My Everything, Ariana Grande
7. Platinum, Miranda Lambert
8. Somewhere Under Wonderland (De..., Counting Crows
9. Now That's What I Call Music, ..., Various Artists
10. Souled Out, Jhené Aiko

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending September 8, 2014:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS
1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
3. Cycloramic, Egos Ventures
4. Afterlight, Afterlight Collective, Inc
5. Sleep Cycle alarm clock, Northcube AB
6. Castle of Illusion Starring Mi..., Disney
7. 7 Minute Workout Challenge, Fitness Guide Inc
8. Videoshop - Video Editor, Joseph Riquelme
9. SpongeBob Moves In, Nickelodeon
10. Buddyman: Kick 2, Crazylion Studios Limited

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS
1. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
2. FaceQ, erick kuo
3. The Tower!, Ketchapp
4. Wipeout 2, Activision Publishing, Inc.
5. ESPN Fantasy Football, ESPN
6. Criminal Case, Pretty Simple
7. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
8. Walmart - Savings Catcher, Sho..., Walmart
9. Snapchat, Snapchat, Inc.
10. Angry Birds Stella, Rovio Entertainment Ltd

TOP PAID IPAD APPS
1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Notability, Ginger Labs
3. Castle of Illusion Starring Mi... , Disney
4. SpongeBob Moves In, Nickelodeon
5. Strawberry Shortcake Berry Bea..., Cupcake Digital
6. Dora and Friends HD, Nickelodeon
7. Cookie Monster's Challenge, PBS KIDS
8. Terraria, 505 Games (US), Inc.
9. XtraMath, XtraMath
10. Photon Flash Player for iPad ..., Appsverse Inc.

TOP FREE IPAD APPS
1. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
2. Angry Birds Stella, Rovio Entertainment Ltd
3. Wipeout 2, Activision Publishing, Inc.
4. Diamond Digger Saga, King.com Limited
5. Madden NFL Mobile, Electronic Arts
6. YouTube, Google, Inc.
7. My Newborn Baby - Mommy & Baby..., Kids Fun Club by TabTale
8. Criminal Case, Pretty Simple
9. Netflix, Netflix, Inc
10. Calculator for iPad Free, International Travel Weather Calculator

U2 drops surprise album at Apple unveiling

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Surprise! U2 just put out a new album, and the renowned rock band is giving it away for free to iTunes users.

U2 made the unexpected announcement Tuesday at Apple's unveiling event in Cupertino, California. All customers with iTunes accounts could download the 11-song "Songs of Innocence" for free Tuesday afternoon.

There was much speculation over whether the band would release an album earlier this year when news leaked about the band potentially postponing the highly anticipated new LP's release to 2015.

The Irish band played at Apple's event and CEO Tim Cook announced the new album would be given to the company's 500 million iTunes users. A news release says the album will be released to everyone else Oct. 14.

Surprise albums are unusual and free albums even more so, but there are recent examples of both.

Beyonce dropped her self-titled LP as a surprise on iTunes in December and it became one of the top-selling albums of 2014. Others, like Kid Cudi and Wolfmother, released surprise albums this year to little notice. Tom Petty gave away his new album with the Heartbreakers for free with purchase of a concert ticket.

A news release says "Songs of Innocence" is an exploration of U2's influences from the 1970s and `80s with themes of "home and family, relationships and discovery." The album is produced by Danger Mouse with Paul Epworth, Ryan Tedder, Declan Gaffney and Flood.

AP

Apple CEO Tim Cook, left, greets Bono from the band U2 after they preformed at the end of the Apple event on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in Cupertino, Calif.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

US music festival cancels CeeLo Green show

MOBILE, Alabama (AP) — A music festival in Mobile, Alabama, is canceling an appearance by singer CeeLo Green following his online comments about sexual assault. Mobile Bayfest CEO Bobby Bostwick issued a statement Monday saying Green's performance scheduled for Oct. 4 is being called off. The statement says recent comments attributed to Green conflict with the beliefs and conscience of the music festival. Green recently pleaded no contest to a felony charge of furnishing ecstasy to a woman during a 2012 dinner in Los Angeles. After the plea, the former "Voice" coach posted a series of tweets, including one that read: "Women who have really been raped REMEMBER!!!" Green later tweeted an apology. Two other concerts have dropped Green, and TBS is canceling the second season of Green's reality show.

Kelli O'Hara tapped for NBC's 'Peter Pan Live!'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC has gone to Broadway to find one of its stars of "Peter Pan Live!" The network said Tuesday that Kelli O'Hara will play Mrs. Darling, the wife of George Darling and mother of the Darling children—Wendy, John and Michael—in the live telecast of the musical airing Dec. 4. O'Hara received Tony nominations for "South Pacific," "The Pajama Game," "The Light in the Piazza," "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and "The Bridges of Madison County." Next spring, she will return to Broadway in the revival of the classic 1951 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I," starring Ken Watanabe. "Girls" star Allison Williams will play Peter and Oscar winner Christopher Walken will play the villainous pirate Captain Hook.

Mike Tyson comes to Rob Ford's defense

TORONTO (AP)—Boxing great Mike Tyson is coming to the defense of Toronto's scandal-plagued Mayor Rob Ford, saying "we all make mistakes." In a rambling exchange with reporters after meeting Ford, the former world heavyweight champion said Tuesday Ford "has a troubled past because he has 24-hour surveillance of the press." Ford returned to work in June after a rehab stint for drug and alcohol abuse. The mayor became an international celebrity last year after he acknowledged using crack in a "drunken stupor" following months of denials. "It's not his fault, it's just that he is living his life and we are human beings—we have no idea what you do behind closed doors," Tyson said. Tyson is in Toronto for his one-man show "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth."

Massive Paul McCartney tribute CD due

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Dylan, Billy Joel and Willie Nelson are among the artists performing Paul McCartney songs in a massive tribute to the former Beatle due out in November.

Up to 42 songs are featured in "The Art of McCartney," available in various formats including a two-CD package and box set. Organizers said Tuesday that it's due out Nov. 18, the brainchild of Los Angeles producer Ralph Sall. He's been working on it since 2003, and on many of the cuts, the artists are backed by McCartney's current band.

McCartney's son James plays keyboard with the Cure in the cover of the Beatles' "Hello Goodbye."

Dylan performs the Beatles' "Things We Said Today," Nelson sings "Yesterday," while Joel performs two solo McCartney songs, "Maybe I'm Amazed" and "Live and Let Die."

Fox host: We're not taking domestic abuse lightly

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel host Brian Kilmeade insists the network's morning show isn't making light of domestic abuse after it was criticized for comments made about the video showing football player Ray Rice hitting his future wife.

Kilmeade, on Monday's show, had said the lesson to be learned from the incident was —quote—"take the stairs."

Kilmeade addressed but did not apologize for the remark on Tuesday's show. He said the remarks made some feel like the "Fox & Friends" hosts were taking the situation too lightly.

Kilmeade said—quote—"we are not. We were not. Domestic abuse is a very serious issue to us, I can assure you."

Nick Carter, Jordan Knight team up for album, tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Jordan Knight says being in a duo with fellow boy band veteran Nick Carter is less stressful than being part of New Kids on the Block.

"When you're in a really big group like New Kids or Backstreet Boys, you kind of feel the pressure of having to do stuff, music, whatever it is and have it geared towards a mass, mass audience, and it puts a lot of pressure on the group and the creative process," Knight said in a recent interview. "And I think with us, we have a little more freedom, you know, to just explore and do something different than what would be expected."

Knight and Carter released the album "Nick & Knight" last week. They are currently on a tour that wraps in November.

The idea of a duo came up when the Backstreet Boys and New Kids toured together in 2011.

"We were talking about music all the time and joking around and just had a really cool relationship and then the whole 'Nick & Knight' thing came up," Carter said. "We decided, 'Hey, let's explore it,' and then it just kept evolving and evolving and eventually it turned into an entire album."

Carter describes the music as "sexy, funk, rhythmic-type music and that's who Nick and I are."

How do their bandmates feel?

"They were supportive. They were happy," Carter said. "We allow ourselves to go out and venture off and have a little bit of individuality, and I think that's really important to be in the group."

Husband holed up in man cave leaves his wife out in the cold

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 13 years, and I'm beginning to wonder if my husband still wants to be with me. He gets home before I do and stays in his room watching TV and piddling around on the computer. He never comes out to say hello when I get home; I go in there and greet him. He comes out when I have dinner fixed and then returns to his room.

I understand the "man cave" thing. Everyone needs their time and space, but this has become an everyday routine. I have tried to tell him I feel ignored. The next night he'll come into the living room and watch TV with me, but I feel he's doing it only because he feels he should, not because he wants to.

Is this my clue that he doesn't care about sharing time with me anymore? I don't want to beg for his attention.

LONELY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR LONELY: It appears that way. You refer to the room in which your husband watches TV and uses his computer as "his" room and not a den. Does he also sleep in there? If that's the case, and the only time you spend together is at the dinner table, your marriage is in suspended animation.

If what he's watching on television or his computer has become a substitute for having a relationship with you—and that's what it appears—you need to find out what happened to the intimacy you once shared. What you have described is a platonic roommate relationship and not a healthy marriage.

If you want to change the dynamics, you are going to have to have some serious conversations with your husband about what your needs are, and also his. Start now.

DEAR ABBY: My parents immigrated here from a foreign country 20 years ago. Although they speak some basic English, they have yet to become even remotely fluent in the language. As a result, they are always asking me to do everything for them —pay their bills, file their taxes, go with them to doctors' appointments, translate for delivery people and take my mom on errands because she doesn't drive. I am irritated.

When will they learn English? I am the CHILD, not the parent. I feel like I have been a mini-adult for many years as their personal chauffeur, secretary, interpreter, etc. I don't mind doing occasional favors for them, but enough is enough. What should I do?

BEYOND FRUSTRATED IN CHICAGO

DEAR BEYOND FRUSTRATED: I think you should take into consideration that learning a new language is much easier for children than it is for adults. You were immersed in English when you went to school and were exposed to it not only in the classroom but also on the playground. Your parents weren't so lucky. They should have enrolled in an ESL class right away, but instead apparently interacted only with people who spoke their language.

However, it's never too late to make an effort, so encourage them to start NOW. A way to persuade them would be to ask them what they would do if, heaven forbid, something happened to you. Some people who have picked up English did so by watching English language television instead of what's aired in their own.

You are not alone in having this problem. The children of every ethnic group that has come to the United States has experienced what you are.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THE FEARLESS SPACEMAN SPIFF IS BEING PURSUED ACROSS THE GALAXY BY DREADED SCUM BEINGS!
THEY'RE GAINING! SPIFF'S ONLY CHANCE TO LOSE THEM IS TO RELEASE A GIANT SMOKE CLOUD BEHIND HIS SPACECRAFT! OUR HERO THROWS THE LEVER!
HEH HEH... JUST UH, CLAPPING THE ERASERS, HEH HEH... (COUGH)
YOU AGAIN?
* SIGHHHH * I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT EVEN 8:30 YET.

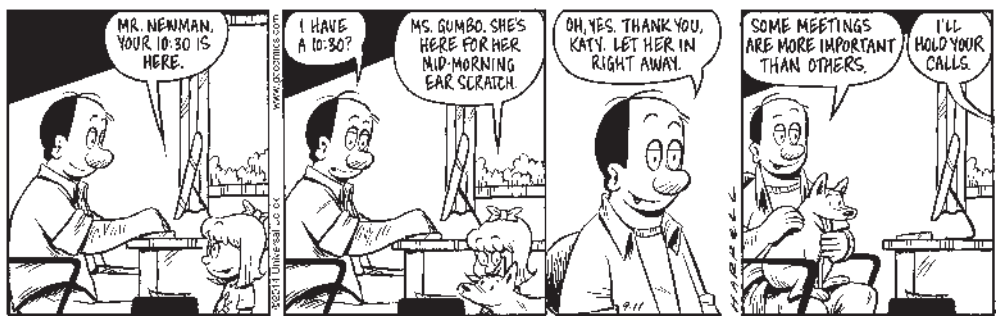
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIVERWURST...HORSERADISH... AND ANCHOVY PASTE! VOILA! THE PERFECT SANDWICH!
HOW COME YOU'RE NOT ANSWERING YOUR PHONE?
JIM DAVIS 9-11

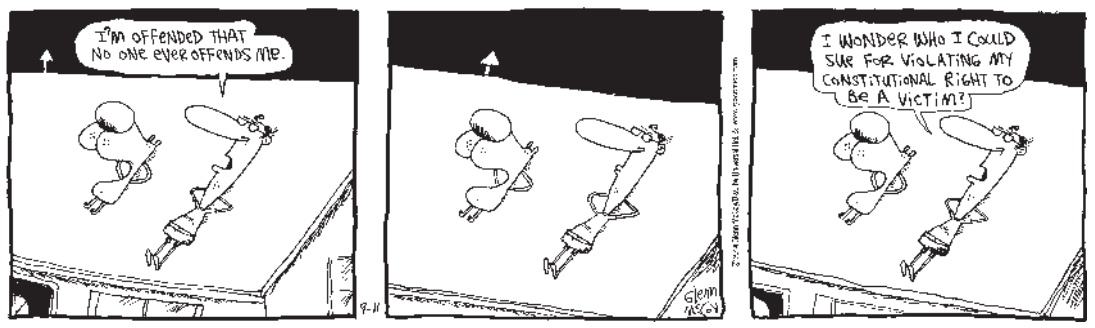
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MR. NEWMAN, YOUR 10:30 IS HERE.
I HAVE A 10:30?
MS. GUMBO, SHE'S HERE FOR HER MID-MORNING EAR SCRATCH.
OH, YES. THANK YOU, KATY. LET HER IN RIGHT AWAY.
SOME MEETINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS.
I'LL HOLD YOUR CALLS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Numerical datum, for short
5 Ali —
9 Tarzan's son
12 Met melody
13 Related
14 Lawyers' org.
15 International financial institution
17 Neither mate
18 Block
19 Approved of
21 2009 Pixar movie
22 Transparent
24 Audubon subject
27 Court
28 Daybreak
31 Commotion
32 Embrace
33 Whopper
34 Part of an egg
36 Navy newbie (Abbr.)
37 Huff and puff
38 Tilted
40 Greeting
41 Thanksgiving parade sponsor
43 Supermarket sections
47 Can. neighbor
48 Filming schedule
51 Solidify
52 Quite some time
53 Lecherous look
54 "Erie Canal" mule
55 Comic strip possum
56 Mail

DOWN
1 Lumberjacks' tools
2 Jog
3 Ethereal
4 Synagogue text
5 Infant
6 Alias abbr.
7 Crib
8 Bracelet site
9 Wad of bills
10 Reed instrument
11 Play area
16 Party bowlful
20 Cartesian conclusion
22 Matter
23 Yule fuel
24 Howl at the moon
25 Bachelorette's final answer?
26 Attendance check
27 A question of time
29 Carnival city
30 Fresh
35 Crucial
37 Chess piece
39 Songwriters' org.
40 Not hers
41 Cocoa holders
42 On the briny
43 Additionally
44 Toy block name
45 Congers, e.g.
46 Undo a dele
49 Earlier
50 Journey segment

Solution time: 24 mins.

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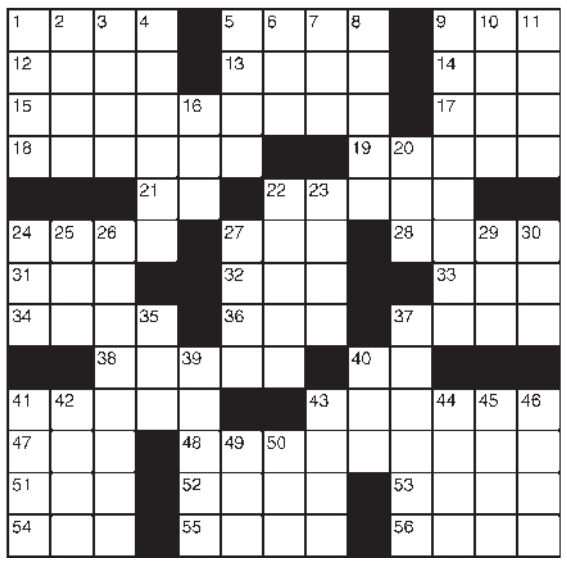
H	O	R	N	I	N	■	A	W	A	K	E	S
■	■	■	S	P	A	■	S	A	S	H	■	■
B	A	H	■	A	R	C	■	Y	E	A	R	N
J	R	A	L	■	D	O	W	■	D	H	A	B
S	T	R	O	P	■	N	A	B	■	D	E	C
■	■	■	D	O	O	R	■	I	L	L	■	■
H	E	C	K	L	E	■	T	A	I	L	O	R
E	R	A	S	■	C	A	S	H	M	E	R	E
R	O	S	F	■	A	G	O	■	B	F	A	D
A	S	H	E	■	P	E	N	■	O	S	L	O

Yesterday's answer 9-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Comrie, 34; Taraji P. Henson, 44; Harry Connick Jr., 47; Virginia Madsen, 53.

Happy Birthday: You may know what you want, but don't try to bulldoze others into agreeing with you. Focus more on the changes you can make that will help you personally and let the ones you love make their own choices. Assistance will come from acquaintances or people you have worked with in the past, not those you live or play with daily. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 30, 32, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Jump into action. Turn your energy level to high. Make a point to fill your day with interesting activities and events that are conducive to making new connections and improving your opportunities to reach your personal or professional goals. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen, but don't disagree. You have nothing to gain and everything to lose if you take a position of opposition. Put more energy into self-improvement, love, romance and educational pursuits. Travel plans aren't likely to run smoothly. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be in the spotlight. Someone will single you out at a function. Make a point to be articulate. If you don't know something, admit to it and move on. Honest communication will be the key to your success. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Problems will develop if you offer help. You are best to go about your business, stick close to home and refuse to get into a highly charged debate. Fix up your home and take care of your responsibilities. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Introduce a pleasant change to what you do for a living or how you live your life. Believe in yourself and you can achieve whatever you set your mind to. Don't let anyone stand between you and your dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do whatever it takes to reassess your personal financial situation. Putting things in order yourself will ensure that no one takes advantage of you or tampers with your assets. Moderation and discipline will help you make wise choices. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your thoughts with people you come in contact with through organizational or industry events. Greater opportunities are apparent, but taking precautions to avoid someone offering the impossible will be necessary. Go with the most practical offer. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make personal changes to your home surroundings and important relationships. Bend a little and delve into situations and activities that are unusual and promise to improve your environment. A minor health issue or problem with a pet should be resolved quickly. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stay away from quick-fix suggestions. Place your bet on whatever you are most knowledgeable about and be prepared to follow through. Don't let a personal problem lead to a deception that will be difficult to reverse. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect to be questioned by a friend or relative regarding something you say or share. Get your facts straight so you don't have to backtrack. An unusual investment will work in your favor, but joint ventures are not in your best interest. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use past experiences to make wise choices regarding money matters. You'll be right on the money with regard to an innovative idea that can turn into a profitable venture. Don't let uncertainty hold you back, but do stick to a set budget. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will face opposition regarding contracts, medical and financial issues. Do as much of the groundwork yourself to avoid a conflict or unnecessary delay. Love is on the rise and romance a promise. Future plans will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are generous, engaging and limitless. You are sophisticated and fair.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		5		2		8	
8								6
		5				2		
6			3		4			7
9			2		7			3
		9				6		
1								9
	7		4		5		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	4	2	3	6	1	5	9
2	9	5	1	4	7	6	8	3
3	6	1	9	8	5	2	4	7
6	4	9	8	5	2	7	3	1
5	2	8	3	7	1	9	6	4
1	3	7	4	6	9	8	2	5
7	8	2	5	1	3	4	9	6
9	5	6	7	2	4	3	1	8
4	1	3	6	9	8	5	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/10

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FLAVORED WATER Solution: 9 letters

O	E	G	L	B	E	E	O	G	N	A	M	I	L	D
T	M	A	R	T	E	A	S	F	E	G	R	A	P	E
A	Y	E	S	F	Y	E	R	S	F	S	E	G	A	S
M	H	A	F	A	I	U	O	R	R	A	E	L	C	U
O	T	O	P	R	I	R	E	P	P	E	P	A	Z	F
T	C	A	R	T	X	E	S	J	T	A	L	E	N	N
E	P	E	R	A	G	U	S	A	R	M	S	O	C	I
L	B	E	L	T	M	I	N	T	W	T	M	R	I	L
P	T	D	I	E	Y	A	E	E	E	A	U	(T)	T	A
P	U	A	M	S	R	G	D	N	N	S	S	(N)	R	V
A	N	M	E	G	N	Y	I	N	H	I	E	(I)	U	E
E	O	E	E	A	E	B	I	E	M	D	W	(H)	S	N
N	C	M	R	N	M	C	D	Y	R	K	N	I	R	D
I	O	O	O	O	L	I	S	A	B	O	T	T	L	E
P	C	H	C	N	I	P	G	C	H	E	R	R	Y	R

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Basil, Berries, Bottle, Calm, Cayenne, Celery, Cherry, Cinnamon, Citrus, Clear, Coconut, Coffee, Combine, Crushed, Drink, Extract, Free, Fruit, Garden, Grape, Herb, Hint, Homemade, Honeydew, Infused, Lavender, Lime, Mango, Mild, Mint, Mist, Orange, Papaya, Pepper, Pinch, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Rose, Sage, Sugar, Tarty, Taste, Thyme, Tomato, Wine, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Motorized

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2 Auto (Radiator) Repairer: $5.55-$6.05/hr. At least five years of experience required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

---

5 Cook (Korean/Japanese cuisine): $5.55/hr. Must be proficient in Korean or Japanese cuisine. At least 2 years' professional experience required. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmisaipan.com.

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Scherzer, Tigers beat Royals again, 4-2

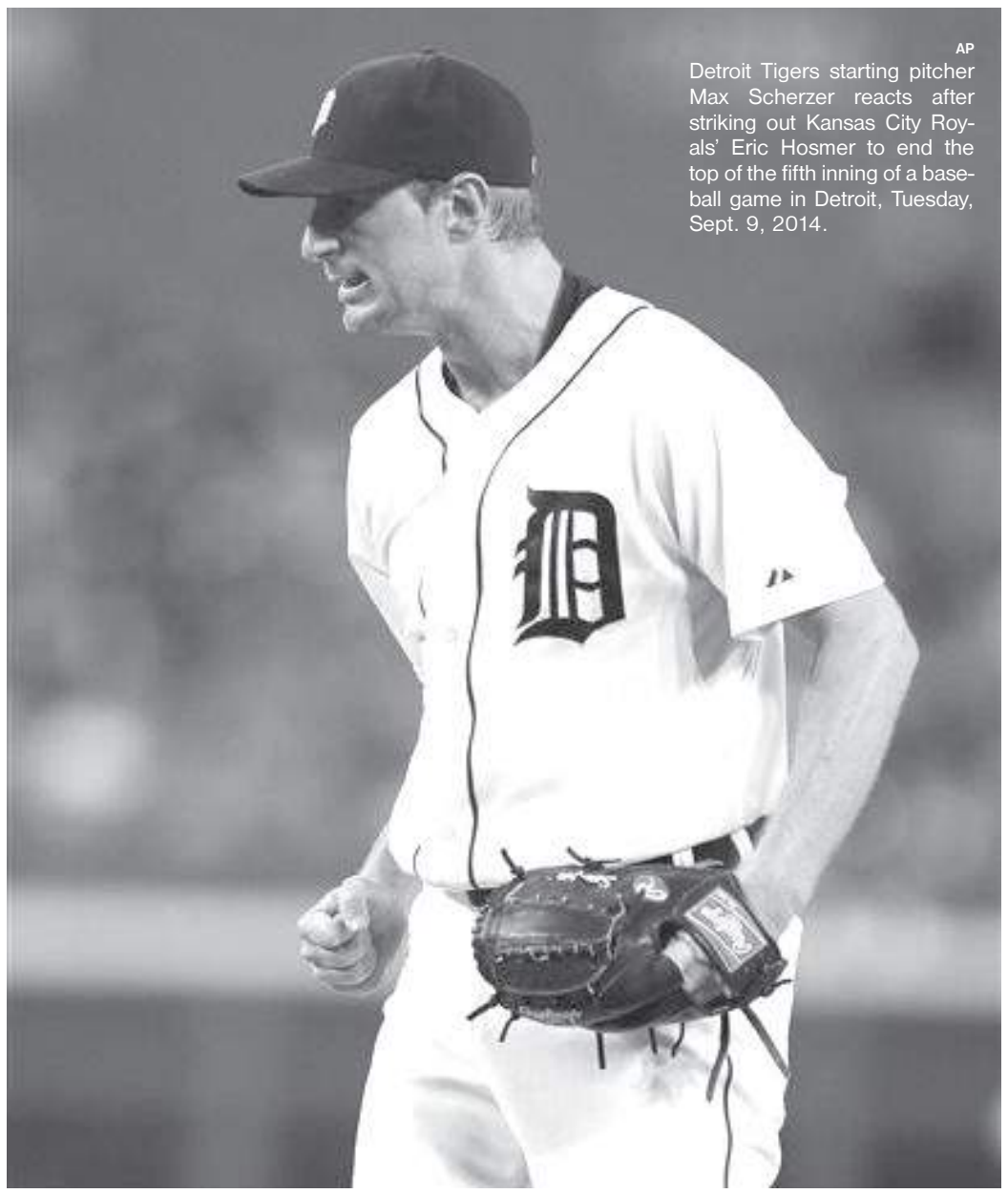
DETROIT (AP)—Max Scherzer escaped a bases-loaded jam in the fifth, Rajai Davis and J.D. Martinez homered, and the Detroit Tigers beat Kansas City 4-2 on Tuesday night to pull within percentage points of the Royals atop the AL Central.

Scherzer (16-5) allowed a run and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings. Kansas City was down 3-1 in the fifth when Alex Gordon's deep fly to right went just foul with two on. Gordon walked to load the bases with one out, but Salvador Perez lined out and Eric Hosmer struck out.

Joe Nathan earned his 30th save in 36 chances, allowing two infield singles to start the ninth before ending it with two strikeouts sandwiched around a picked-off runner.

Kansas City's Jason Vargas (11-8) allowed four runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings. He struck out six and walked three.

Detroit will try to sweep the three-game series Wednesday night.



AP

Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Max Scherzer reacts after striking out Kansas City Royals' Eric Hosmer to end the top of the fifth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014.

Angels 9, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Kole Calhoun hit a leadoff homer, Collin Cowgill had a big eighth inning and Los Angeles stretched its winning streak to six by beating Texas.

Cowgill reached on an infield single to start a seven-run eighth. He scored on Mike Trout's triple and capped the outburst with a bases-loaded triple.

The Angels, with the best record in the majors at 89-55, matched their longest winning streak of the season. The AL West leaders have won 12 of 14 overall.

Hector Santiago (5-7) allowed only a solo homer in five innings.

Calhoun's third leadoff homer this season, and 15th long ball overall, came off Colby Lewis (9-13), who pitched into the eighth.

Athletics 11, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Josh Donaldson had a career-high five hits while driving in four runs, helping Jon Lester and the Athletics to the road win.

Donaldson also scored two runs as Oakland got just its third win in 12 games. Lester (14-10) gave up two runs over eight innings, and the Athletics took advantage of a season-high five errors for Chicago.

Possibly the only negative for Oakland was Craig Gentry suffering a concussion in a collision at first base while beating out a bunt single in the fifth. He was replaced by pinch-runner Josh Reddick.

Chicago's John Danks (9-11) lasted six innings, allowing four runs — two earned — and seven hits.

Orioles 4, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Alejandro De Aza hit two homers, Adam Jones added another and Baltimore beat Boston to win for the 10th time in 13 games.

Chris Tillman (12-5) gave up one run in five innings, the 18th straight start in which he allowed three earned runs or fewer. Zach Britton pitched the ninth for his 34th save in 38 opportunities.

The first-place Orioles maintained their 10-game lead in the AL East over Toronto.

Last-place Boston is a season-high 22 1/2 games out of first one year after winning the World Series.

The three homers increased Baltimore's major league-leading total to 191 and came off rookie Anthony Ranaudo (3-2). He left after allowing four runs and six hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Xander Bogaerts hit his 10th homer for the Red Sox.

Rays 4, Yankees 3

In New York, left fielder Matt Joyce threw out Stephen Drew in the fifth inning when catcher Ryan Hanigan blocked the sliding runner, and Tampa Bay held on to beat the fading Yankees.

Hours after Major League Baseball gave teams and umpires new guidelines on what catchers can do under this year's experimental rule designed to avoid collisions, the latest instructions were put to a test when Drew tried to score what would have been the tying run.

The out call was upheld after a replay review. Derek Jeter then lined into a double play, and the Rays preserved their 4-3 lead.

Chris Archer (9-8) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings. Jake McGee got three outs for his 17th save in 19 chances.

New York began the night five games back for the second AL wild card with 21 remaining, and the loss dropped the Yankees to 3-4 on their next-to-last homestand. The game drew 31,188, the smallest crowd at new Yankee Stadium and New York's home low since Sept. 23, 2004, according to STATS.

James Loney's solo homer in the second off Hiroki Kuroda (10-9) put the Rays ahead.

Nationals 6, Braves 4

In Washington, Adam LaRoche had two hits and two RBIs, and Washington essentially put to rest any thought that there is still a serious race for the NL East title with a win over Atlanta.

Washington's second victory in two nights over the Braves, gave the Nationals a nine-game lead over their second-place rivals with 19 to play. The Nationals have won five of the last seven meetings with the Braves.

Jordan Zimmermann (11-5) allowed four runs (two earned) with seven strikeouts and no walks in six innings. He hasn't lost a decision since July 11 and is 5-0 — and the Nationals are 8-0 — in his last eight starts.

LaRoche singled in a run off Ervin Santana (14-8) in the Nationals' four-run first inning and added another RBI single in the second. LaRoche is 9-for-19 with four home runs and 12 RBIs in his last six games.

Reds 9, Cardinals 5

In Cincinnati, Devin Mesoraco homered and drove in three runs, and Mike Leake pitched into the seventh inning and doubled home a run, as Cincinnati snapped a six-game losing streak against St. Louis.

The NL Central-leading Cardinals lost for only the second time in 11 games and maintained their 4½-game lead over Pittsburgh.

The Reds won for the third time in 11 games. They are 17-33 since the All-Star break, a slide that has dropped them out of contention.

Leake (11-11) was coming off his worst start of the season. Against the Cardinals, Leake allowed three runs and eight hits.

He also doubled home a run in the fourth off Michael Wacha (5-6) for a 3-1 lead. His fifth double of the season was his 68th career hit, the most by any pitcher in the majors since his debut in 2010.

Aroldis Chapman relieved with two on and two outs in the ninth and fanned Mark Ellis on a 101 mph fastball to end it, getting his 31st save in 33 chances.

Phillies 4, Pirates 3

In Philadelphia, Maikel Franco hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning to lift Philadelphia over Pittsburgh.

Freddy Galvis homered, doubled and scored the go-ahead run after an infield single and a stolen base. Justin De Fratus (3-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Jonathan Papelbon finished for his 36th save in 39 chances.

The Pirates entered the night with a 1 1/2-game lead over Atlanta and Milwaukee for the second NL wild card. The last-place Phillies have won 10 of 15.

Galvis led off the seventh with a grounder to deep shortstop for a single off Justin Wilson (3-4). After a pair of strikeouts, Galvis stole second. He scored on Franco's hit to right.

Galvis hit a drive way out to right to tie it at 3 in the fifth.

Astros 2, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Jonathan Villar hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning to lift Collin McHugh and the Houston Astros over Seattle.

Logan Morrison homered off McHugh in the eighth to tie it, but the Mariners fell a half-game out in the race for the second AL wild card.

With two outs in the ninth, Yoervis Medina (4-3) walked Jon Singleton and he advanced to second on a wild pitch. Singleton moved to third on Matt Dominguez's single to deep shortstop before Villar came through.

McHugh (9-9) permitted only two hits in eight innings — an infield single in the fourth and Morrison's long homer. The right-hander struck out four and walked none.

Josh Fields worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Padres 6, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Andrew Cashner pitched seven strong innings to win for the first time since mid-April, Jedd Gyorko hit a two-run homer and San Diego ended a six-game skid by beating Los Angeles.

The Dodgers had their four-game winning streak snapped, and their NL West lead was cut to 2½ games over San Francisco.

The Padres totaled 12 runs during their losing streak, but they built a 5-0 lead for Cashner by the third inning, helping him beat the Dodgers for the first time.

Cashner (3-7) allowed two runs and nine hits after going winless in 11 outings. His last victory was against Colorado on April 16.

Roberto Hernandez (8-11) gave up five runs and three hits in three innings.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 1

In San Francisco, Yusmeiro Petit pitched a four-hitter for his second career complete game, leading San Francisco past Arizona.

Making his third start since replacing Tim Lincecum in the rotation, Petit (5-3) faced just two more batters than the minimum and matched his season high of nine strikeouts. The right-hander needed only 84 pitches to finish the gem, the fewest in a nine-inning complete game by any pitcher in the majors this season.

Petit, who threw 26 first-pitch strikes, came within one out of a perfect game against the Diamondbacks on Sept. 6, 2013.

Leadoff hitter Angel Pagan had four hits and scored twice. Joe Panik went 5 for 5 to help San Francisco win its seventh straight home game. Overall, the Giants have won 10 of 13.

Ender Inciarte homered leading off the fourth to end Arizona's seven-game homerless drought, but the Diamondbacks have lost four straight. Wade Miley (7-11) struggled with his control and lasted only two innings.

Marlins 6, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Casey McGehee and Marcell Ozuna hit back-to-back home runs with two outs in the ninth inning, breaking open a tie game and leading Miami over fading Milwaukee.

McGehee connected for a two-run shot off Francisco Rodriguez (4-5). Ozuna, who reached base five times, followed with another drive off of Rodriguez, who has given up a career-high 14 home runs this season.

Christian Yelich added a pair of singles and extended his hitting streak to 12 games.

The Brewers lost for the 13th time in 14 games.

Bryan Morris (8-1) pitched out of a no-out, bases-loaded jam in the eighth to earn the win. Steve Cishek earned his 34th save in 38 chances.

Mets 2, Rockies 0

In New York, Jacob deGrom burnished his rookie of the year credentials by pitching three-hit ball for eight dominant innings, and the New York Mets held on to beat Colorado for their sixth win in seven games.

Jeurys Familia, the Mets' third pitcher in the ninth inning, got Wilin Rosario to ground out with the bases loaded for his fifth save.

The win came after the Mets learned captain David Wright would be shut down for the rest of the season because of inflammation in his left shoulder.

Juan Lagares had an RBI single to help the Mets move to five games of .500 (70-75). Curtis Granderson added an RBI double off Christian Bergman (2-3).

In his 20th career start, deGrom (8-6) didn't allow a baserunner after Nolan Arenado's one-out double in the fourth — retiring his final 14 batters. He struck out nine and walked none.

Over his last 10 starts, deGrom is 7-1 with a 1.60 ERA.

Goodell says NFL didn't see video before this week

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—As questions arose about how the NFL investigated domestic violence allegations against Ray Rice, Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday the league asked for, but was not given, video showing the ex-Ravens running back punching his then-fiancee on an elevator. Goodell told CBS that "no one in the NFL, to my knowledge" had seen a new video of what happened on the elevator until it was posted online.

"We assumed that there was a video. We asked for video. But we were never granted that opportunity," Goodell said.

Two videos, one released by TMZ Sports and another shown later to The Associated Press by a law enforcement official, show Rice punching Janay Palmer—who is now his wife—at an Atlantic City casino in February. They are graphic, and show more detail than an initial video released by TMZ in July that showed him dragging her from an elevator.

After the latest TMZ video made its way around the Internet, the Ravens cut Rice and the league barred him indefinitely. But the video renewed criticism about the NFL's decision to initially suspend Rice for just two games, and raised questions about how strenuously the case was investigated.

Goodell has previously said he "didn't get it right" with Rice and the league set up new penalties for domestic violence: a six-game suspension for a first offense, at least a year for a second.

"I would tell you that what we saw in the first videotape was troubling to us, in and of itself," Goodell said. "But what we saw yesterday was extremely clear, is extremely graphic, and it was sickening. And that's why we took the action we took yesterday."

In the videos that surfaced Monday, Rice and Palmer are seen hitting each other before he knocks her off her feet and into a railing.

The higher-quality video shown to the AP shows Rice made no attempt to cover up what happened. After Palmer collapses, he drags her out of the elevator and is met by some hotel staff. Someone is heard saying, "She's drunk, right?" And then, "No cops." Rice didn't respond.

The video was shown to the AP on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to release it.

Palmer defended her husband on her Instagram account Tuesday, saying that barring Rice from playing football is "horrific" and that making the couple "relive a moment in our lives that we regret every day is a horrible thing."

Ravens coach John Harbaugh said he met with owner Steve Bisciotti, team president Dick Cass and general manager Ozzie Newsome after they saw the TMZ video, and they made the decision to let Rice go.

AP
In this May 1, 2014, file photo, Baltimore Ravens football player Ray Rice holds hands with his wife, Janay Palmer, as they arrive at Atlantic County Criminal Courthouse in Mays Landing, N.J.

The action represented a complete reversal for the team, which had initially supported Rice. Rice had been charged with felony aggravated assault in the case, but in May he was accepted into a pretrial intervention program that allowed him to avoid jail time and could lead to the charge being purged from his record. A prominent New Jersey lawmaker called Tuesday for that decision to be reviewed.

In a letter to fans, Bisciotti said the team should have done more to get the video as the investigation continued, and it was a "mistake" not to. He said the team tried to get the video from both the casino and law enforcement, but the casino wouldn't share it and that authorities refused. It is common for law enforcement to decline to release evidence when an investigation is ongoing.

"We should have seen it earlier. We should have pursued our own investigation more vigorously," the letter said. "We didn't and we were wrong."

Rice's attorney, Michael Diamondstein, declined to comment when contacted by the AP. In a brief telephone interview with ESPN, Rice said: "I have to be strong for my wife. She is so strong. ... We are in good spirits. We have a lot of people praying for us and we'll continue to support each other."

Rice stood to make $4 million this year. In addition to his salary, he'll also lose income from canceled endorsement deals. Nike announced it has severed its business ties with him, and video game publisher Electronic Arts said it would scrub Rice's image from their latest Madden `15 release.

In public statements this summer, he expressed regret: "I let so many people down because of 30 seconds of my life that I know I can't take back."

Hawks discipline GM Ferry for racist comments

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks are sticking with general manager Danny Ferry even though the team's new majority owner wants him fired for racially charged comments about Luol Deng.

CEO Steve Koonin on Tuesday told the Hawks' flagship radio station that he made the decision to discipline Ferry but allowed him to keep his job managing the team. He did not say what the punishment was, but noted that he relied on a law firm's three-month investigation of Ferry and him describing Deng as someone who "has a little African in him."

Ferry made the inflammatory comments about Deng in a conference call with the Hawks' ownership group in June when the team pursued Deng as a free agent.

Deng, who now plays for the Miami Heat, responded saying, "I'm proud to say I actually have a lot of African in me, not just `a little.'"

A letter from co-owner Michael Gearon Jr. recommends that Ferry resign or be fired. Gearon said Ferry made that description of Deng to the team's ownership group.

His June 12 letter to co-owner Bruce Levenson said Ferry went on to say, "Not in a bad way, but he's like a guy who would have a nice store out front and sell you counterfeit stuff out of the back."

Added Gearon: "Ferry completed the racial slur by describing the player (and impliedly all persons of African descent) as a two-faced liar and cheat."

Deng, 29, was born in what is now South Sudan. His father moved his family to Egypt and then England. The 10-year NBA veteran is now a British citizen, played for England in the 2012 Olympics and said he's proud to represent his heritage "on the highest stage."

Deng, like Ferry, also played at Duke.

"Every person should have the right to be treated with respect and evaluated as an individual, rather than be reduced to a stereotype," Deng said. "I am saddened and disappointed that this way of thinking still exists today. I am even more disturbed that it was shared so freely in a business setting."

Koonin said Atlanta law firm Alston and Bird went through 24,000 documents, conducted 19 interviews and read "every email Danny Ferry has ever sent as general manager of the Atlanta Hawks." Koonin said no other negative information on Ferry was found in the probe.

"I took their advice and far exceeded their advice," Koonin said of the undisclosed punishment he imposed on Ferry.

Hawks spokesman Garin Narain said the investigation of Ferry's comments uncovered a racially inflammatory email written two years ago by Levenson. That discovery led to Levenson's announcement Sunday that he will sell his controlling share of the team.

Despite Gearon's desire to remove Ferry, Koonin is standing by him.

"I understand that emotion," Koonin said of Gearon's recommendation. "I certainly understand that emotion. I know people who have said that to me. But if we sentence people based on what everybody wanted, we wouldn't have a justice system.

"I listened to what (the law firm) said because they had done the work ... so that's a decision I'm willing to live with."

Gearon warned Levenson he believed Ferry's comments "could be fatal to the franchise" if made public.

Gearon said he and the other co-owners "were appalled that anyone would make such a racist slur under any circumstance, much less the GM of an NBA franchise on a major conference call."

Gearon declined to comment when contacted by The Associated Press on Tuesday. Ferry apologized Tuesday but said he was only repeating what he had heard about Deng.

"In regards to the insensitive remarks that were used during our due diligence process, I was repeating comments that were gathered from numerous sources during background conversations and scouting about different players," Ferry said in a statement released by the team.

"I repeated those comments during a telephone conversation reviewing the draft and free agency process. Those words do not reflect my views, or words that I would use to describe an individual and I certainly regret it. I apologize to those I offended and to Luol, who I reached out to Monday morning."

Koonin has agreed to meet with Atlanta civil rights leaders on Wednesday. The Rev. Markel Hutchins said Monday he asked for the meeting to discuss what he believes is a racist attitude throughout the organization.

In his letter to Levenson, Gearon compared Ferry's remarks to much-publicized racist comments which forced Donald Sterling to sell the Clippers.

"We believe these comments by Ferry were far worse than Sterling's because they were not from a private personal conversation—they were in a business environment on a business matter in front of a dozen or more people," Gearon wrote. "If Ferry would make such a slur in a semi-public forum, we can only imagine what he has said in smaller groups or to individuals."

Ferry was named the Hawks' general manager in 2012 following two years as vice president of basketball operations for the San Antonio Spurs. He was general manager for the Cleveland Cavaliers from 2005-2010 and helped build the team that advanced to the 2007 NBA Finals.

There was renewed optimism about the direction of the team after Ferry hired coach Mike Budenholzer from San Antonio in 2013.

Now, the turmoil threatens to derail all their efforts.

New ownership must be found and despite the support of Koonin, Ferry's ability to survive the crisis is unknown.

In his letter of apology, Ferry pledged he would learn from the incident.

"I am committed to learning from this and deeply regret this situation," Ferry said. "I fully understand we have work to do in order to help us create a better organization; one that our players and fans will be proud of, on and off the court, and that is where my focus is moving forward."

US, Lithuania win to set up World Cup semifinal

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)— Lithuania will have another chance to upset the United States after the two teams set up a semifinal rematch at the Basketball World Cup.

Renaldas Seibutis scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and Lithuania outshot Turkey from behind the 3-point line to win their quarterfinal 73-61 on Tuesday.

The U.S. then turned a seven-point halftime lead into a 119-76 blowout of Slovenia as six Americans scored 12 or more points, led by Klay Thompson's 20.

Thursday's semifinal at Palau Sant Jordi will be a rematch of the 2010 meeting when a Kevin Durant-led U.S. beat Lithuania 89-74 en route to taking the world title.

"Everybody counts on that USA is the favourite, but we would have to give a fight against them for the semifinal," said Lithuania forward Jonas Maciulis. "We have to fight and seize the chance to play the final."

Backup guard Martynas Pocius added 13 points off the bench for the reigning bronze medalists as Lithuania's substitutes outscored Turkey's 28-6. Kerem Gonlum paced Turkey, the 2010 silver medalists, with 13 points.

A game featuring two NBA big men in Lithuania's Jonas Valanciunas and Turkey's Omer Asik was decided from beyond the arc.

Turkey had needed two last-minute 3s by Emir Preldzic to overcome a five-point deficit and stun Australia in the round of 16. But the Turks only shot 3-of-18 from long range against a Lithuania team that made 10-of-19.

As Lithuania coach Kazlauskas put it: "All Lithuanians can shoot. Me too."

"They were concentrating on the inside so we had a lot of space on the perimeter," Kazlauskas added.

Asik started strong for Turkey with six of his 11 points in the opening period to help build an early 14-6 lead. But the New Orleans Pelicans center was limited by fouls as the game wore on and Turkey's guards lost their shooting touch. Preldzic looked set for another big night when he made his first three baskets, only to manage just four more points.

Valanciunas kept Lithuania afloat with six first-quarter points while its guards struggled early.

The Toronto Raptors center finished with 12 points and a game-high 13 rebounds, after several bruising battles with Asik in the low post. One no-call on what he deemed a foul earned Valanciunas a technical for protesting. After cooling down on the bench he returned to help Lithuania dominate the final quarter when its shots started to fall.

"For most of these games we managed to make a comeback," said Turkey guard Sinan Guler. "But today, if we compare the 3-point percentages it shows how the game went. That took us out of our rhythm and at the end not making our shots brought the result of the game."

The Americans' outside scorers also struggled early as James Harden Stephen Curry combined to miss all 12 shots they took in the first half.

No matter. The U.S. was still ahead on the strength of its offensive rebounding and its defense.

The U.S. fueled its eventual rout with a 53-38 advantage on the boards, including a 23-12 edge on the offensive glass. It also scored 40 points off turnovers to 10 for Slovenia.

"Under the basket we lost the battle from the very first second," Slovenia coach Jure Zdoc said.

Kenneth Faried set the tone on the boards as it took the U.S. less than 90 seconds to pull in its first five rebounds.

The Denver Nuggets forward finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Fellow big man Anthony Davis had 13 points and 11 boards.

Harden exploded for 14 points as the second half turned into a series of breakaway dunks for the Americans that delighted the crowd, except the large swath of Slovenian fans in their chartreuse shirts.

"We just stayed with it and the flood gates opened in the second half," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

AP

Demar Derozan of the U.S, right, vies for the ball with Slovenia's Zoran Dragic during the Basketball World Cup quarterfinal at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014.

SHIRLEY'S

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undefeated in the playoff round.

PIC, with the core of Saipan Southern High School leading the attack, pulled away early to enjoy a 44-29 halftime lead then poured it on in the third where they also held Fiesta to 9 points for a 66-38 advantage entering the fourth period.

PIC was never threatened with Fiesta Resort hardly putting up a fight.

Eleven of the 12 players that coach Noel Verder fielded in for PIC scored in the game with Jack Aranda tallying 20 points, while James Abuy, Bryl Alegre, and former Aqua Resort big man Darwin Barbo scored 12 points each.

D-Jay Ong paced Fiesta's losing cause with 21 points, while Lerio Pagarao added 17 markers.

The finals begin Thursday night and if Shirley's can pull off an upset, a knock-out match will be played next Tuesday.

First Game

Shirley's-Century Hotel 72 – Jugos 18, Dela Rosa 14, Usi 10, Rabasto 9, Catungal 7, Aguilar 6, Drilon 4, Sedillo 4.

World Resort 65 – Danas 22, Manglona 15, Vinas 13, Lewis 10, Bernardo 3, Tiamzon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-18, 36-34, 52-50, 72-65.

Second Game

PIC 89 – Aranda 20, Abuy 12, Alegre 12, Barbo 12, Babauta 9, Hambros 6, Quitugua 6, Bartolo 4, Tolentino 4, Buchun 2, Remillosa 2.

Fiesta Resort 55 – Ong 21, Pagarao 17, Esdrelon 6, Quizon 5, Matsutaro 4, Lavarias 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 44-29, 66-38, 89-55.

ARAGO

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21-13, 21-18 win over 10-year-old A.J. Ortega of Taga Badminton Club.

Hanna Choi of SBC remained the women's singles A division champion for the third straight year after a clinical 21-14, 21-12 win over CBC's Janelle Pangilinan.

Choi, a veteran shuttler while in college in her native South Korea, just toyed with the youngster Pangilinan with a dizzying array of crosscourt and drop shots in her arsenal.

SBC picked up another singles crown in women's B with Dianne Francisco beating CBC's Nicolle Malasarte, 21-11, 23-21, while Rose Lazaro ruled the C division following a marathon three-set 21-19, 17-21, 21-16 win over Patricia Abantao of CBC.

SBC pairs also won three of the six doubles crowns contested with Glenn Buultjens and Sam Jones beating CBC's Galvez and Deether Edralin in the men's A division, 21-19, 21-13.

Youngson Yu and Jongmin Lee bested Pastor Pang and Oh Imbog for the men's B crown, 21-19, 1-15, in an all SBC finale while, Choi teamed up with Alma Ortega to clinch the women's A title after squeezing out a tough 21-13, 28-30, 21-17 decision over the Shirley's duo of Lanie Bartolome and Windy Fernandez.

Pairs from CBC, Shirley's, and Taga were the other doubles champions with Malasarte joining hands with Abantao to give the youngsters the women's C tiara following a 23-21, 21-16 triumph over Baby Banadera and Vilma Reyes.

Su and Patrick Fernandez defeated Taga's Taeho Kim and Tommy Kim, 21-9, 21-9, in the men's C division while Loyda Ito and Shirley Kim gave Taga the women's B trophy following a 21-15, 17-21, 21-15 triumph over the SBC pair of Julie Lee and Rowena Sison.

BANMI

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Projects. Five teams are competing in the U14 division and games will be played every Saturday.

Matches in the U18 and U21 division are slated on weekdays and the complete schedule will be announced once the participating teams met the league's requirements. Teams are mandated to turn in completed waiver and registration forms and a copy of their respective rosters before their first game.

Meanwhile, BANMI official Elias Rangamar said they are still looking for sponsors of the youth league, which provides the CNMI a pool of players it can tap to represent the CNMI in upcoming regional competitions, such as the Micronesian Basketball Tournament, Micronesian Games, and the Pacific Mini Games.

Business, inter-govt tourneys

In other BANMI-related news, two more leagues will be played at the Ada Gym later this month.

First up is 2014 BANMI Inter-Government League, which is set to kick off tentatively on Sept. 16.

BANMI's Abner Venus said they are still finalizing the number of teams that will vie for the inter-government championship, but so far eight have already expressed their interest in the league. Teams are asked to submit a copy of their rosters and pay the $500 entrance fee before the kickoff.

The same entrance fee is charged for teams interested in joining the 2014 BANMI Inter-Commercial/Business League. So far seven teams are signified their intension to join the business league.

Only employees of the participating companies are allowed to play and matches are scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday. The first game is set for 6:30pm, while the second will take place at 8pm.

For more information, contact Venus at 888-3215.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	85	59	.590	—
Toronto	75	69	.521	10
New York	73	69	.514	11
Tampa Bay	70	75	.483	15½
Boston	63	82	.434	22½

Central Division

Kansas City	79	64	.552	—
Detroit	80	65	.552	—
Cleveland	74	69	.517	5
Chicago	64	80	.444	15½
Minnesota	62	82	.431	17½

West Division

Los Angeles	89	55	.618	—
Oakland	81	63	.563	8
Seattle	79	65	.549	10
Houston	64	81	.441	25½
Texas	54	90	.375	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	82	61	.573	—
Atlanta	74	71	.510	9
Miami	71	72	.497	11
New York	70	75	.483	13
Philadelphia	67	77	.465	15½

Central Division

St. Louis	80	65	.552	—
Pittsburgh	75	69	.521	4½
Milwaukee	74	71	.510	6
Cincinnati	68	77	.469	12
Chicago	64	81	.441	16

West Division

Los Angeles	82	63	.566	—
San Francisco	79	65	.549	2½
San Diego	67	77	.465	14½
Arizona	59	85	.410	22½
Colorado	59	86	.407	23

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fiesta notches second finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Top 2 teams in the regular season will dispute the championship in the 2014 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League, as Fiesta Resort & Spa barged into the finals following an 86-78 win over Kanoa Resort last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fiesta, which finished second in the double-round robin regular season, will battle top finisher and the unbeaten Shirley's Coffee Shop in this Saturday's finale. Shirley's had earlier secured the first finals seat after nipping Pacific Oriental, Inc., 93-91.

Fiesta cruised its way to the championship game after blowing the game wide open in the fourth quarter, leading by as much as 20 points, 80-60. Fiesta went on a 13-6 tear in the first four minutes of the fourth period to pull away further after ending the third with a 13-point lead, 67-54. Djay Ong scored 6 points in the spurt, while Johnston Alokoa contributed 5, and Paul Quizon made the other two points to widen the gap.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Johnston Alokoa pulls up for an open jumper, as Kanoa Resort's Fred Litulumar comes in late on transition defense during the third quarter of their semis game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Matt Duenas scored all of Kanoa's first 6 points and later teamed up with Mico Usi in launching an 11-0 run to slice the deficit to single digits, 80-71, going into the last four minutes of the semis match. However, Fiesta would not be denied, as Ralph Lavarias came off the bench and drilled the team's last 6 points, while Kanoa went on silent mode for more than a minute. Dindo Pablo then ended Kanoa's spell with his back-to-back triples, but he was too late the hero, as Kanoa did not have enough time to overhaul Fiesta's lead.

Kanoa lost the fight for the second and last finals berth despite leading early, 18-14. Duenas gave Kanoa a good start, firing 8 points in the first period. He had an exchange with Elmer Esdrelon in the opening canto with the Fiesta captain, scoring 6 markers.

Fiesta then stole the lead in the second canto, as it registered its biggest output in that quarter, pouring 29 points. The second-quarter uprising was a team effort, as six different players scored for Fiesta and four of them made at least three baskets apiece. In contrast, only Duenas and Pablo hit the board for Kanoa in the second quarter with the former leading his team with 13 points.

Duenas continued to carry Kanoa on his shoulders, while Fiesta kept distributing the wealth, allowing the defending champion to turn a 37-42 halftime cushion to a baker's dozen lead, entering the final canto.

Duenas led all scorers with his 39 points and clearly needed help from his teammates, as only three other Kanoa players scored in the knockout match. Seven Fiesta players made it to the board and five of them hit double figures. Ong finished with 18, Adonis Macoto and Esdrelon chipped in 17 and Lavarios and Quizon added 15 and 10, respectively. Alokoa tallied 5, while Joseph Villamena registered 2.

Meanwhile, in this Saturday's title match, Fiesta is aiming to reclaim the championship it lost in 2012, while Shirley's hopes to end its back-to-back bridesmaid finishes. Shirley's lost to Fiesta in the inaugural league in 2011 and then settled for another runner-up finish to CTSI-D&Q the following year.

Fiesta Resort 86 – Ong 18, Macoto 17, Esdrelon 17, Lavarias 15, Quizon 10, Alokoa 5, Villamena 2.

Kanoa Resort 78 – Duenas 39, Pablo 18, Usi 11, Litulumar 10.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 42-37, 67-54, 86-80.

NMIFA Fall League lures 46 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Forty-six teams will be seeing action in the 2014 NMIFA Fall League that will kick off this weekend.

The boys U15 division will start the competition in Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's premier youth tournament with a pair of games set tomorrow evening. In the first match at 5:30pm, Shirley's Football Club will take on Kanoa Football Club, while MP United Football Club will collide with long-time rival Paire Football Club at 7:30pm. Both matches were originally scheduled to take place at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, but since the pitch is closed for repairs and maintenance work, venue of the opening games is expected to change and an announcement will be made before the Friday play date.

The two other teams entered in the boys U15 division—Matansa FC and Tan Holdings FC—will make their season debut this Saturday when they duel in an 8am game.

In the girls U15, there are also six squads—Shirley's FC, Kanoa FC, Paire FC, MP United FC, Matansa FC, and Tan Holdings FC. Matches will be played every Saturday only at the Hopwood Junior High School Field with three matches every weekend. In this Saturday's opener, Shirley's FC will face Kanoa FC at 2:30pm on Pitch 1, while over at Pitch 2 at the same time, Paire FC will square off against MP United. In the last game at 4pm, Matansa and Tan Holdings will slug it out.

Hopwood will also be the venue of the other game in the boys U18 division between Matansa FC and Tan Holdings FC. MP United FC and Paire FC are the two other squares competing in the division and they are originally set to duel at 10am this Saturday at the Oleai pitch, but the venue and time may be moved.

In the U12 division, there are 12 teams, which are spread into two groups. Division A has four teams and is considered under competitive level of play where scores will be recorded and a champion will be crowned. The U15 and U18 divisions are also under the competitive league. Kanoa, MP United, Tan Holdings, and Paire make up Division A.

In Division B, MP United and Tinian Premier Football Club have two squads each, while Shirley's, Paire, Kanoa, and Matansa have one apiece. All U12 matches will be played at the Hopwood pitch.

Games in the two other divisions—co-ed U8 and U10—will take place at the various school pitches on Saipan. In the U8 age group, eight teams are playing with MP United having the most squads with three. Kanoa, Shirley's Paire, Matansa, and Tan Holdings have one each. In the U10, Paire, Tinian, and MP United are fielding two teams each, while Shirley's, Kanoa, and Tan Holdings have one apiece. Games in the U10 division will start at 3:15pm, while U8 matches will begin at 2:15pm every Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Soccer School's Jersh Angeles watches two participants perform drills during a coaching clinic held last Saturday at the William S. Reyes Elementary School. The clinic aimed to prepare new coaches for the upcoming NMIFA youth league.

Akkari foils Natibu in Sta. Remedios softball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Akkari ended Natibu's undefeated run in the finals to rule the 11-team field in the Sta. Remedios Slow-pitch Softball Tournament held over the weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Akkari, which lost to Natibu in the elimination round and had to beat Team Vinnie in the playoffs to book a finals spot, banked on Ray Saralu's consistent hitting to get back at their tormentors.

Akkari trailed for most part of the match but made their move in the top of the fifth to move ahead, 9-8.

A Saralu sacrifice fly RBI highlighted the Akkari comeback.

After holding Natibu to a single run in the bottom of the fifth, Saralu again stepped up to the plate and with the bases loaded with one out and sent Jerome Delos Santos' third pitch sailing past the left field fence to enjoy a 13-8 lead.

Akkari, which also scored a 15-9 decision over Team Vinnie behind Saralu's two homeruns in the semis, did not let the opportunity slip away and played solidly in the last two innings to complete the win.

Natibu, for sweeping its way to the finals, enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage but both teams and organizers decided to no longer play the second game due to the heavy downpour that flooded the field.

Kyle Kaipat bested 10 other batters to rule the home-run derby, which is a regular side event in every baseball and softball tournament on the island.

The tournament was held as a fundraising event for next month's Sta. Remedios Fiesta in Tanapag.

Another tournament will be held next weekend, from Sept. 19 to 21, also at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team Vinnie members pose for a group shot after finishing third in last weekend's Sta. Remedios Slow-pitch Softball Tournament.

Goodell says NFL didn't see video before this week
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Shirley's, PIC arrange title showdown

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Shirley's-Century Hotel and Pacific Islands Club scored contrasting wins against separate opponents to arrange a title showdown in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-hotel Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Shirley's banked on John Jugos' game-long brilliance in turning back Saipan World Resort, 72-65, while Jack Aranda led PIC's balanced scoring attack in completing an 89-55 demolition of regular season top seed Fiesta Resort.

Jugos joined hands with Erick Dela Rosa and Shaun Rabasto in the opening period to give Shirley's a 26-18 lead but Jomar Danas and Dennis Vinas combined to score all of World Resort's points in the second quarter to keep the game close, 36-34, at the turn.

Danas continued with his hot shooting in the third making 6 of his team's points in a 9-0 run to take a 45-36 spread with barely four minutes gone in the clock.

But Shirley's countered with its own scoring blitz, a 16-5 exchange to take a slim 52-50 lead entering the final canto.

Jugos, Dela Rosa, and Rommel Usi then alternated in draining crucial baskets for Shirley's to complete the hard-earned win.

Jugos collected 18 points to lead Shirley's to victory, while Dela Rosa and Usi chipped in 14 and 10 markers apiece.

Danas paced World Resort with 22 markers, Eugene Manglona and Vinas combined for 28 points, while John Lewis made 10 more.

Shirley's will be facing a tall order when it goes up against PIC, an 89-55 conqueror of Fiesta Resort in the second game, since the latter enjoys a twice-to-beat incentive in the finals after going

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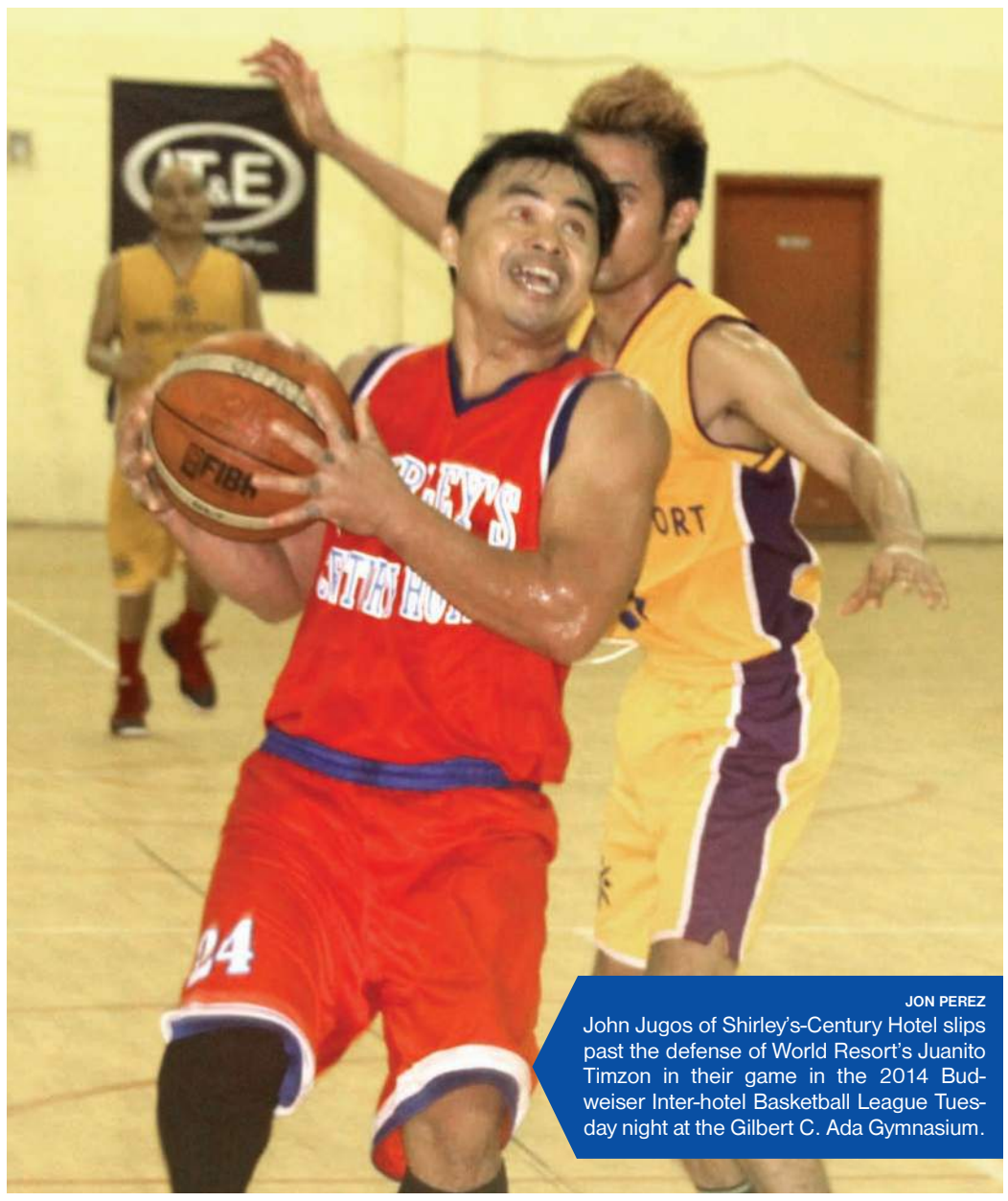

JON PEREZ
John Jugos of Shirley's-Century Hotel slips past the defense of World Resort's Juanito Timzon in their game in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-hotel Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

3rd time's the charm for Arago in Shirley's Clasic

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Third time's the charm for Ferdy Arago as the Shirley's Badminton Club member finally defeated longtime rival Andreau Galvez in their title match in the premier men's singles A division of the 2014 Shirley's Badminton Classic held over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

Arago, who lost twice to Galvez in the two previous editions of the annual tournament, played solidly in the opening game and capitalized on his opponent's erratic plays that resulted to a 21-19 tally.

He completed his breakout win after the Community Badminton Club member could no longer continue after suffering from cramps.

CBC's Ezekiel Macario, on the other hand, topped the B class following a 21-19, 21-9 thrashing of SBC's Joel Ortega.

SBC's Leo Su topped the C division after a hard-earned

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ROSELYN MONROYO
Ferdy Arago of Shirley's Badminton Club slides forward for a backhand return against Community Badminton Club's Andreau Galvez in this file photo taken during last year's finals match. Arago finally beat Galvez after three tries in last weekend's men's singles A finals in the 2014 Shirley's Badminton Classic.

BANMI kicks off youth league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2014 BANMI Youth League kicked off yesterday with the Ol'Aces and Sonics colliding in the opener at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces and Sonics are entered in the U21 category and will be battling the division crown against six other teams. The Ol'Aces was in the lead at the end of the first half, 28-19. Final results of the opener will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

Games in the U21 division will continue tomorrow with Laly 4 taking on Kentucky Fried Chicken at 6:30pm, while the U18 category will have its first game tonight with the Chalan Kanoa Saints facing KFC at 5:30pm. The U18 division also has eight teams with two more squads having their season debuts tomorrow, as the Rollers challenges the CNMI Girls U18 Team at 5:30pm.

Week 1 of BANMI's youth league will be completed with a pair of U14 matches this Saturday. In the first game at 9am, the Rollers will meet the Ol'Aces, while in the second game at 10:30am, DYS will battle DA

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' Jaymark De Guzman tries to dribble out of the defense of two Ol'Aces players during the third quarter of the opening game in the BANMI youth league (U21 division) yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.